

MAR 31 2006

For Six Month Period Ending

(Insert date)

I - REGISTRANT

1. (a) Name of Registrant

Alpine Tourist Commission

(b) Registration No. 2052

(c) Business Address(es) of Registrant

c/o Switzerland Tourism
608 Fifth Avenue
New York NY 10020

2. Has there been a change in the information previously furnished in connection with the following:

(a) If an individual:

(1) Residence address

Yes ☐

No ☐

(2) Citizenship

Yes ☐

No ☐

(3) Occupation

Yes ☐

No ☐

(b) If an organization:

(1) Name

Yes ☐

No ☒

(2) Ownership or control

Yes ☐

No ☒

(3) Branch offices

Yes ☐

No ☒

(c) Explain fully all changes, if any, indicated in items (a) and (b) above.

2006 APR 24 PM 3:21
CRM/CES/REGISTRATION UNIT

IF THE REGISTRANT IS AN INDIVIDUAL, OMIT RESPONSE TO ITEMS 3, 4, AND 5(a).

3. If you have previously filed Exhibit C¹, state whether any changes therein have occurred during this 6 month reporting period.

Yes ☐

No ☒

If yes, have you filed an amendment to the Exhibit C?

Yes ☐

No ☐

If no, please attach the required amendment.

¹ The Exhibit C, for which no printed form is provided, consists of a true copy of the charter, articles of incorporation, association, and by laws of a registrant that is an organization. (a waiver of the requirement to file an Exhibit C may be obtained for good cause upon written application to the Assistant Attorney General, Criminal Division, Internal Security Section, U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, D.C. 20530.)

-
4. (a) Have any persons ceased acting as partners, officers, directors or similar officials of the registrant during this 6 month reporting period? Yes ☐ No ☒

If yes, furnish the following information:

Name	Position	Date Connection Ended
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- (b) Have any persons become partners, officers, directors or similar officials during this 6 month reporting period? Yes ☐ No ☒

If yes, furnish the following information:

Name	Residence Address	Citizenship	Position	Date Assumed
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-
5. (a) Has any person named in item 4(b) rendered services directly in furtherance of the interests of any foreign principal? Yes ☐ No ☒

If yes, identify each such person and describe his service.

- (b) Have any employee or individuals, who have filed a short form registration statement, terminated their employment or connection with the registrant during this 6 month reporting? Yes ☐ No ☒

If yes, furnish the following information:

Name	Position or connection	Date terminated
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- (c) During this six month reporting period, has the registrant hired as employees or in any other capacity, any persons who rendered or will render services to the registrant directly in furtherance of the interests of any foreign principal(s) in other than a clerical or secretarial, or in a related or similar capacity? Yes ☐ No ☒

If yes, furnish the following information:

Name	Residence Address	Citizenship	Position	Date Assumed
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6. Have short form registration statements been filed by all of the persons named in Items 5(a) and 5(c) of the supplemental statement? Yes ☐ No ☐

If no, list names of persons who have not filed the required statement.

II - FOREIGN PRINCIPAL

7. Has your connection with any foreign principal ended during this 6 month reporting period?

Yes ☐ No ☒

If yes, furnish the following information:

Name of foreign principal

Date of termination

8. Have you acquired any new foreign principal² during this 6 month reporting period?

Yes ☐ No ☒

If yes, furnish following information:

Name and address of foreign principal

Date acquired

9. In addition to those named in Items 7 and 8, if any, list foreign principals² whom you continued to represent during the 6 month reporting period.

Alpine Tourist Commission (Touristische Gemeinschaft der Alpenlaender)
Zurich/Switzerland

10. **EXHIBITS A AND B**

(a) Have you filed for each of the newly acquired foreign principals in Item 8 the following:

Exhibit A ³	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Exhibit B ⁴	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>

If no, please attach the required exhibit.

(b) Have there been any changes in the Exhibits A and B previously filed for any foreign principal whom you represented during this six month period? Yes ☐ No ☐

If yes, have you filed an amendment to these exhibits? Yes ☐ No ☐

If no, please attach the required amendment.

2 The term "foreign principal" includes, in addition to those defined in section 1(b) of the Act, an individual organization any of whose activities are directly or indirectly supervised, directed, controlled, financed, or subsidized in whole or in major part by a foreign government, foreign political party, foreign organization or foreign individual. (See Rule 100(a) (9)). A registrant who represents more than one foreign principal is required to list in the statements he files under the Act only those principals for whom he is not entitled to claim exemption under Section 3 of the Act. (See Rule 208.)

3 The Exhibit A, which is filed on form CRM-157 (Formerly OBD-67) sets forth the information required to be disclosed concerning each foreign principal.

4 The Exhibit B, which is filed on Form CRM-155 (Formerly OBD-65) sets forth the information concerning the agreement or understanding between the registrant and the foreign principal.

- we refer to seperate sheet

- If yes, identify each such foreign principal and describe in full detail all such political activity, indicating, among other things, the relations, interests and policies sought to be influenced and the means employed to achieve this purpose. If the registrant arranged, sponsored or delivered speeches, lectures or radio and TV broadcasts, give details as to dates, places, of delivery, names of speakers and subject matter.

- If yes, describe fully.

official of the Government of the United States or any section
be to political or public interests, policies, or relations of a

IV - FINANCIAL INFORMATION

14. (a) RECEIPTS-MONIES

During this 6 month reporting period, have you received from any foreign principal named in Items 7, 8, and 9 of this statement, or from any other source, for or in the interests of any such foreign principal, any contributions, income or money either as compensation or otherwise? Yes ☒ No ☐

If no, explain why.

If yes, set forth below in the required detail and separately for each foreign principal an account of such monies⁶

Date	From Whom	Purpose	Amount
------	-----------	---------	--------

we refer to separte sheet

Total

(b) RECEIPTS - FUND RASING CAMPAIGN

During this 6 month reporting period, have you received, as part of a fund raising campaign⁷, any money on behalf of any foreign principal named in items 7, 8, and 9 of this statement? Yes ☐ No ☒

If yes, have you filed an Exhibit D to your registration? Yes ☐ No ☐

If yes, indicate the date the Exhibit D was filed. Date _____

(c) RECEIPTS-THINGS OF VALUE

During this 6 month reporting period, have you received any thing of value⁹ other than money from any foreign principal named in Items 7, 8, and 9 of this statement, or from any other source, for or in the interests of any such foreign principal? Yes ☐ No ☒

If yes, furnish the following information:

Name of foreign principal	Date received	Description of thing of value	Purpose
---------------------------	---------------	-------------------------------	---------

^{6, 7} A registrant is required to file an Exhibit D if he collects or receives contributions, loans, money, or other things of value for a foreign principal, as part of a fund raising campaign. (See Rule 201(e).)

⁸ An Exhibit D, for which no printed form is provided, sets forth an account of money collected or received as a result of a fund raising campaign and transmitted for a foreign principal.

⁹ Things of value include but are not limited to gifts, interest free loans, expense free travel, favored stock purchases, exclusive rights, favored treatment over competitors, "kickbacks," and the like.

15. (a) **DISBURSEMENTS-MONIES**

During this 6 month reporting period, have you

- (1) disbursed or expended monies in connection with activity on behalf of any foreign principal named in Items 7, 8, and 9 of this statement? Yes ☒ No ☐

- (2) transmitted monies to any such foreign principal? Yes ☐ No ☐

If no, explain in full detail why there were no disbursements made on behalf of any foreign principal.

If yes, set forth below in the required detail and separately for each foreign principal an account of such monies, including monies transmitted, if any, to each foreign principal.

Date	To Whom	Purpose	Amount
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we refer to sepearte sheet

Total

(b) DISBURSEMENTS-THINGS OF VALUE

During this 6 month reporting period, have you disposed of anything of value¹⁰ other than money in furtherance of or in connection with activities on behalf of any foreign principal named in Items 7, 8, and 9 of this statement?

Yes ☐No ☒

If yes, furnish the following information:

Date disposed	Name of person to whom given	On behalf of what foreign principal	Description of thing of value	Purpose
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(c) DISBURSEMENTS-POLITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS

During this 6 month reporting period, have you from your own funds and on your own behalf either directly or through any other person, made any contributions of money or other things of value¹¹ in connection with an election to any political office, or in connection with any primary election, convention, or caucus held to select candidates for political office?

Yes ☐No ☒

If yes, furnish the following information:

Date	Amount or thing of value	Name of political organization	Name of candidate
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10, 11 Things of value include but are not limited to gifts, interest free loans, expense free travel, favored stock purchases, exclusive rights, favored treatment over competitors, "kickbacks" and the like.

V - INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS

16. During this 6 month reporting period, did you prepare, disseminate or cause to be disseminated any informational materials¹²?
 Yes ☒ No ☐

IF YES, RESPOND TO THE REMAINING ITEMS IN SECTION V.

17. Identify each such foreign principal.

Alpine Tourist Commission

18. During this 6 month reporting period, has any foreign principal established a budget or allocated a specified sum of money to finance your activities in preparing or disseminating informational materials? Yes ☒ No ☐

If yes, identify each such foreign principal, specify amount, and indicate for what period of time.

Alpine Tourist Commission (Touristische Gemeinschaft der Alpenlaender)
 Zurich/Switzerland

Budget 2006: 550'000.00

19. During this 6 month reporting period, did your activities in preparing, disseminating or causing the dissemination of informational materials include the use of any of the following:

- | | | | |
|---|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Radio or TV broadcasts | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Magazine or newspaper articles | <input type="checkbox"/> Motion picture films | <input type="checkbox"/> Letters or telegrams |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Advertising campaigns | <input type="checkbox"/> Press releases | <input type="checkbox"/> Pamphlets or other publications | <input type="checkbox"/> Lectures or speeches |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Internet | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (specify) <u>general public who asks for it</u> | | |

20. During this 6 month reporting period, did you disseminate or cause to be disseminated informational materials among any of the following groups:

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Public Officials | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Newspapers | <input type="checkbox"/> Libraries |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Legislators | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Editors | <input type="checkbox"/> Educational institutions |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Government agencies | <input type="checkbox"/> Civic groups or associations | <input type="checkbox"/> Nationality groups |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify) _____ | | |

21. What language was used in the informational materials:

- ☒ English ☐ Other (specify) _____

22. Did you file with the Registration Unit, U.S. Department of Justice a copy of each item of such informational materials disseminated or caused to be disseminated during this 6 month reporting period? Yes ☐ No ☐

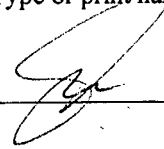
23. Did you label each item of such informational materials with the statement required by Section 4(b) of the Act? Yes ☐ No ☐

12 The term informational materials includes any oral, visual, graphic, written, or pictorial information or matter of any kind, including that published by means of advertising, books, periodicals, newspapers, lectures, broadcasts, motion pictures, or any means or instrumentality of interstate or foreign commerce or otherwise. Informational materials disseminated by an agent of a foreign principal as part of an activity in itself exempt from registration, or an activity which by itself would not require registration, need not be filed pursuant to Section 4(b) of the Act.

VI--EXECUTION

In accordance with 28 U.S.C. § 1746, the undersigned swear(s) or affirm(s) under penalty of perjury that he/she has (they have) read the information set forth in this registration statement and the attached exhibits and that he/she is (they are) familiar with the contents thereof and that such contents are in their entirety true and accurate to the best of his/her (their) knowledge and belief, except that the undersigned make(s) no representation as to truth or accuracy of the information contained in the attached Short Form Registration Statement(s), if any, insofar as such information is not within his/her (their) personal knowledge.

(Date of signature)

(Type or print name under each signature¹³)

Raphael Enzler_____
Chairman

¹³ This statement shall be signed by the individual agent, if the registrant is an individual, or by a majority of those partners, officers, directors or persons performing similar functions, if the registrant is an organization, except that the organization can, by power of attorney, authorize one or more individuals to execute this statement on its behalf.

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FARA REGISTRATION UNIT
CRIMINAL DIVISION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20530**

NOTICE

Please answer the following questions and return this sheet in triplicate with your Supplemental Statement:

1. Is your answer to Item 16 of Section V (Informational Materials - page 8 of Form CRM-154, formerly Form OBD-64-Supplemental Statement):

YES _____ yes _____ or NO _____

(If your answer to question 1 is "yes" do not answer question 2 of this form.)

2. Do you disseminate any material in connection with your registration:

YES _____ or NO _____

(If your answer to question 2 is "yes" please forward for our review copies of all material including: films, film catalogs, posters, brochures, press releases, etc. which you have disseminated during the past six months.)



Signature

March 31, 2006

Date

Raphael Enzler

Please type or print name of
signatory on the line above

Chairman

Title



U.S. Department of Justice

Criminal Division

Washington, DC 20530

THIS FORM IS TO BE AN OFFICIAL ATTACHMENT TO YOUR CURRENT SUPPLEMENTAL STATEMENT -
PLEASE EXECUTE IN TRIPLICATE

SHORT-FORM REGISTRATION INFORMATION SHEET

SECTION A

The Department records list active short-form registration statements for the following persons of your organization filed on the date indicated by each name. If a person is not still functioning in the same capacity directly on behalf of the foreign principal, please show the date of termination.

Short Form List for Registrant: Alpine Tourist Commission

Last Name	First Name and Other Names	Registration Date	Termination Date	Role
Enzler	Raphael	07/27/2004		Chairman



U.S. Department of Justice

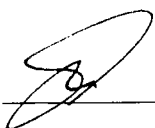
Criminal Division

Washington, DC 20530

SECTION B

In addition to those persons listed in Section A, list below all current employees rendering services directly on behalf of the foreign principals(s) who have not filed short-form registration statements. (Do not list clerks, secretaries, typists or employees in a similar or related capacity). If there is some question as to whether an employee has an obligation to file a short-form, please address a letter to the Registration Unit describing the activities and connection with the foreign principal.

Name	Function	Date Hired
none		

Signature: 

Date: March 31, 2006

Title: Chairman



Item 11 ACTIVITIES DURING THE 6 MONTH REPORTING PERIOD

Dissemination of brochures "Vacation in the Alps". Insert placement of advertisement in Ski Club Newsletter for consumers. Distribution of monthly e-newsletter to consumers and general public who asks for it. Advertisement in National Geographic Traveler October 2005 issue. Destination targeted banner on Away.com in October 2005. Travel workshop in the New York Sports Club New York/NY in cooperation with partners from the alpine countries in October 2005. Participation at the USTOA Conference in Orlando/Florida on December 3, 2005 in cooperation with partners from the alpine countries. Advertisement in Outside Traveler Magazine March 2006 issue. Familiarization Ski Press trip to St. Moritz/Switzerland and St. Anton/Austria for journalists in cooperation with Swiss International Airlines and partners from the alpine countries from March 22 – 30, 2006.



Item 14 (a) RECEIPTS OF MONIES

Date	From Whom	Purpose	Amount
11/16/05	Best of the Alps Grindelwald/Switzerland	Reimbursement for BOTA luncheons	4'316.27
12/16/05	Adv. on Skis Houston/TX	Joint promotion/Advertisement	8'000.00
02/06/06	French Government Tourist Office, New York/NY	Website integration	3'600.00
03/06/06	Globus & Cosmos Denver/CO	Joint promotion/Advertisement	5'000.00
03/03/06	Headoffice Zurich/Switzerland	Current expenses	100'000.00
03/10/06	Best of the Alps Grindelwald/Switzerland	Joint promotion/Advertisement	37'000.00
03/20/06	Switzerland Tourism New York/NY	Part. Mountain Travel Symposium 04/06	8'000.00
03/22/06	Ski France International Franan/France	Part. Mountain Travel Symposium 04/06	22'000.00
03/23/06	Headoffice Zurich/Switzerland	Current expenses	200'000.00
03/27/06	Watzinger Busservice Munich/Germany	Part. Mountain Travel Symposium 04/06	2'000.00
03/28/06	Garmisch-Partenkirchen Tourismus Garmisch-Partenkirchen/Germany	Part. Mountain Travel Symposium 04/06	2'000.00
Total			391'916.27

March 31, 2006/NC



Item 15 (a) DISBURSEMENTS OF MONIES

Date	To Whom	Purpose	Amount
10/01/05 – 31/03/06		Office expenses & bank fees	741.61
10/01/05 – 03/31/06	Helga Brenner-Kahn Flushing/NY	Newsletters, translations, fees and various expenses	6'417.00
10/01/05 – 03/31/06	The National Ski Club Newsletter, Englewood/CO	Adv. in Newsletter	6'000.00
10/05/05	Int'l Tvl Communications Warren/NJ	Fees for USTOA 2006 organization	5'000.00
10/15/05	FARA reg. Unit, Washington/DC	Registration fee	305.00
11/11/05	Int'l Tvl Communications Warren/NJ	Fees for organization of a workshop	4'388.79
11/22/06	Tourism Cares for Tomorrow Canton/MA	Donation	5'000.00
11/28/05	Bruce Harrington Littleton/CO	Speaker fee USTOA 2006	1'350.00
01/10/06	Roger Toll Park City/UT	Reimbursement exp. for Ski trip to Switzerland 03/06	226.60
01/10/06	Int'l Tvl Communications Warren/NJ	Fees for USTOA 2005 organization	1'416.77
01/23/06	USTOA New York/NY	Breakfast sponsorship at annual meeting	3'519.19
03/06/06	Benjamin Davidson Fairfax/CA	Reimbursement exp. for Ski trip to Switzerland 03/06	199.60
03/06/06	Int'l Tvl Communications Warren/NJ	Advertisement campaign	20'000.00

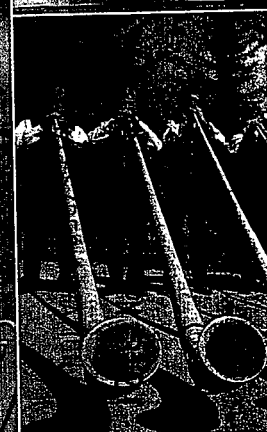


03/06/06	Resort Industry Marketing Irvine/CA	Registration Mountain Travel Symposium 04/06	33'845.00
03/06/06	Resort Industry Marketing Irvine/CA	Sponsorship fee Mountain Travel Symposium 04/06	17'840.00
03/10/06	Amy Marr Mill Valley/CA	Reimbursement exp. for Ski trip to Switzerland 03/06	194.60
03/10/06	Lake Tahoe Entertainment Incline Village/NV	Entertainment fee for Mountain Travel Symposium 04/06	1'700.00
03/15/06	Resort Industry Marketing Irvine/CA	Part. fee Mountain Travel Symposium 04/06	995.00
03/20/06	Int'l Tvl Communications Warren/NJ	Exp. for table flags production	452.00
03/21/06	Switzerland Tourism New York/NY	Reimbursement office supplies	800.00
03/28/06	Ivan Breiter Toronto/Canada	Reimbursement exp. Mountain Travel Symposium 04/06	2'000.00
Total			112'391.16

March 31, 2006/NC

Photo: S. L. / Contrasto
Blowers in Switzerland and grape harvest
from Alpine vineyards (from top to bottom)

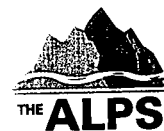
MUSIC
FOOD & WINE
LIFESTYLE
ACTIVE



VACATION IN THE ALPS

CROSSING BORDERS AND CULTURES

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GERMANY
SWITZERLAND



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VACATION IN THE ALPS



Street conductor in Salzburg, Austria (center photo). Streets of Rothenburg, Germany. Spiral Staircase in Melk, Austria. Hikers in the Swiss Alps. (top to bottom, left).

For me, the Alps have always seemed like the great crossroads of Europe. One reason for this is simple geography: Perched at the very center of the European landmass, the Alps serve naturally as the continent's rendezvous point, its lively town square—you might even say its heart—where the diverse citizens of many countries can come together and intermingle. These mountains, after all, have been the gateway between northern and southern Europe ever since Hannibal crossed them in 218 BC, and there aren't too many places on the continent that are more than a few hours away (except, perhaps, by elephant). With a number of direct flights into the region and neighboring countries accessible within hours, a vacation including all the Alpine countries is wonderfully possible.

ITALY AUSTRIA

But there's also something about the atmosphere here that seems to draw people of all types and tempers. Maybe it's the tradition of warm hospitality to travelers, or the devotion to a healthier, more natural lifestyle based on the rhythm of the seasons, or even just the calming, head-clearing purity of the chill mountain air. Or perhaps the appeal has more to do with the allure of crossing borders. Where else can you spend Friday night dining at a mountainside trattoria in Italy, Saturday afternoon skiing the slopes of Switzerland, and then Sunday evening listening to a festival concert in Germany or Austria—all against a backdrop of breathtaking Alpine scenery?

Whatever the explanation, one thing is certain: The Alps are a place where the best of Europe comes together to form a culture all its own, invigorating to mind, body, and spirit.

The richness of Alpine history is a particular attraction for me. Numerous UNESCO World Heritage sites are tucked away in and around these mountains, and nearly all are easily accessible. Perhaps my favorite is the historical town center of Salzburg, where a genteel Baroque city (the legacy of Salzburg's Italian-inspired Prince-Archbishops) has been shoehorned into an old Gothic streetscape. But there are also other sites here with very different historic moods, from the brooding medieval solemnity of Castelgrande in Ticino to the ornate Rococo flamboyance of the fabulous Pilgrimage Church of Wies in Bavaria. And other vestiges of Alpine history go back much farther than that: In Valcamonica in the Italian Alps you can find prehistoric petroglyphs inscribed on cliffs that seem to shimmer beneath the sky-scraping peaks.

The more modern side of Alpine culture, however, has a magnetism of its own. The elegance of the esplanades in Montreux or Vevey (where there's a charming little statue of Charlie Chaplin, who spent his last years here) make Lake Geneva a sanctuary for those seeking a certain kind of sophisticated repose—one that just might involve window-shopping at Cartier or Armani before taking high tea on the terrace of a

www.alpseurope.com



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+ 2005 / 2006

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BY Picasso Travel

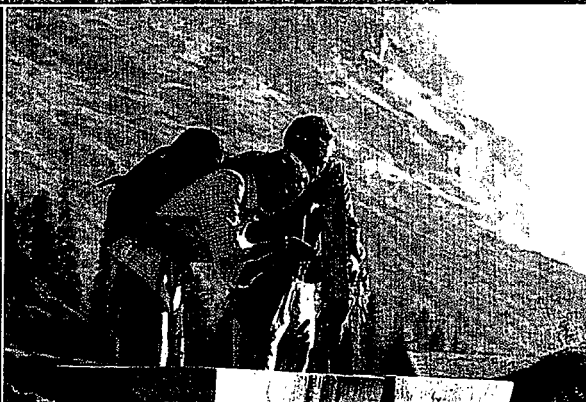
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SWISS POST

2 nights hotel packages at tourist class (3) hotels at 18 cities and resorts. Longer vacations and upgrades to 4* and 5* hotels available at additional cost.



Neuschwanstein Castle, Germany (center photo). Celebration with wine. Hikers in the Swiss Alps (below).



grand lakeside hotel. This kind of high-style pampering can also be found (with a slightly different accent) at other resort towns in the Alps—at Bad Blumau, where traditional mud-wrap cures can be taken in an ultra-modern spa designed by the architect Hundertwasser, or at Bellagio on Lake Como, a resort that over the years has attracted celebrities ranging from Lord Byron to George Clooney. One major lure of the Alps has always been music. The number of world-class festivals that take place here is astonishing. Foremost among them, of course, is the Salzburg Festival, that annual midsummer explosion of fashion, classical music, and see-and-be-seen revelry. But there are many others where the music-making is just as stellar (and where the tickets might actually be easier to get). The Bregenz Festival on Lake Constance, for instance, or the Lucerne Festivals (there's one around Easter and another in late summer) are truly premier events, featuring artists on the order of soprano Renee Fleming and the Vienna Symphony Orchestra. 2005 marks two other important cultural celebrations as well—both of them in the Swiss capital of Bern. The city's new Paul Klee Center, featuring the world's largest collection of the Swiss Expressionist's paintings, opens in June. And that same month brings the Historical Museum's centennial observance of Albert Einstein's "annus mirabilis"—1905, when the great physicist, then living in Bern, published a series of momentous scientific papers, including one that introduced the theory of relativity that would fundamentally change our understanding of the universe. [See sidebar for specifics about these and other 2005 events.]

SPECIAL EVENTS IN THE ALPS THIS SEASON:

APRIL 28 TO OCTOBER 9:

Landshut Wedding:

A quadrennial festival in which 2000 participants in medieval costume transform a small Bavarian town into a major historical experience. Landshut, Germany.

www.tiscover.de/landshut

JUNE 20:

Paul Klee Center Opening:

Debut of a new museum devoted to the works of the famous Swiss painter, in a building designed by architect Renzo Piano, who is also designing the new New York Times Building in New York. Zentrum Paul Klee, Bern, Switzerland.

www.pauikleeezentrum.ch

JUNE 24 TO 28:

Richard Strauss Festival '05

Garmisch-Partenkirchen:

Chamber music, song recitals and symphony concerts pay homage to the composer Richard Strauss, who lived and worked in Garmisch-Partenkirchen from 1908 until his death in 1949.

www.cometogermany.com

ALPS: A PLACE TO BE ACTIVE

But the Alps offer plenty of inspiration for the body as well as the mind. Diehard snow-sport aficionados, of course, can find summer skiing at several of the high-lying glaciers in the region, including the Theodul Glacier above Zermatt or the Stubai near Innsbruck. And if you're really adventurous, you can even paraglide around some of the region's more spectacular sights, like King Ludwig's unashamedly ostentatious Neuschwanstein Castle in Bavaria or the heroic peak of Monte Bianco di Courmayeur, the highest point in Italy.

Personally, though, I prefer my sports somewhat less extreme. Give me a leisurely eighteen holes at St. Moritz, beneath the startling visual drama of the Bernina massif, or a daylong bike ride from Konstanz to the little garden-island of Mainau, where a mild microclimate allows even palm trees and subtropical flowers to thrive. And I never leave the Alps without engaging in my favorite sporting pastime—mountain hiking. Here it's been turned into an art-form, with numberless trails leading off into alpine meadows or (for the more ambitious) straight up toward the rocky peaks.

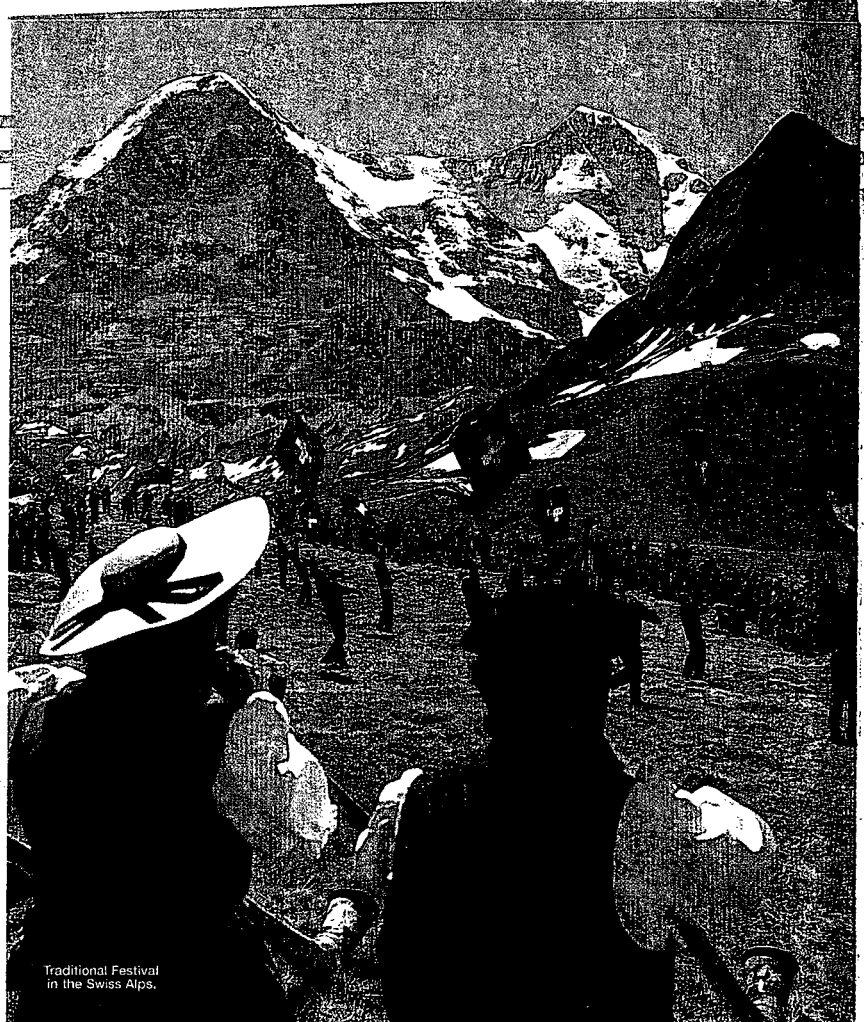
If you are looking for a spa town, visit Bad Reichenhall. An Alpine town in the extreme south-east of Germany between Salzburg, Berchtesgaden and Lake Chiemsee. Framed by the Bavarian Alps and by a magical panorama, it is the perfect place to stay and take excursions out and about. There are well tended parks, numerous health establishments, the Gradierhaus (for the evaporation of salt-water), the old saltworks, the historical Predigtstuhl cable car, the casino and a whole host of cultural events.

JULY 6 TO 10:

18th Festival of the Müller Thurgau wines of the Alps:

In the historical Palazzo Barbi, in the centre of the village, over a hundred labels from Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Luxemburg and Eastern Europe will be compared with the best of the Trentino production. A regular date for experts and enthusiasts from all over Europe. Trentino, Italy. www.italiantourism.com

www.alpseurope.com



Traditional Festival in the Swiss Alps.

swiss.com

SWISS

Swiss International Air Lines



Be sure to take home something precious from your trip: Your smile.

We want to make flying an unforgettable experience. With our gourmet concept «SWISS-Taste of Switzerland» we now spoil our passengers departing from Switzerland with national culinary delights prepared by acclaimed chefs from Switzerland's four language communities. We continue to introduce further product and service innovations.

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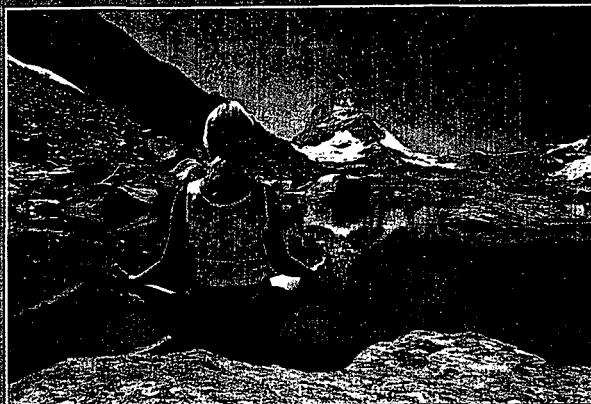
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Salzburg, Austria (center).
A woman practices yoga in front of
the Matterhorn. Delicious food is a
hallmark of the Alps (below).



Refueling after such exertions is always a particular pleasure in the Alps. There's no shortage of haute cuisine here, particularly around the main cities. But I prefer the more down-to-earth pleasures of a country inn or stübl where traditional Alpine specialties like Tyrolean cheese dumplings and bündnerfleisch (sliced air-dried beef) are served with great pride of place. And the local wines of the region are always a revelation to me. Austria's Grüner Veltliners, of course, have become the newest darling of oenophiles the world over, but the lesser-known wines of the region, based on grape varieties like Chasselas and Pinot Noir, are also unexpectedly pleasing. In the famed "Black Forest" area, Baden is the southernmost of Germany's wine regions. In this long, slim strip that extends from near Heidelberg in the north to Lake Constance (Bodensee) enjoy the wonderful rosé - Spätburgunder Weißherbst.

And when all is said and done, it's the magic of these simpler experiences that stays with me long after I've come home from the Alps. To sip a glass of local wine within sight of the very vineyard it came from, to hike to a little mountain village where the local innkeeper welcomes guests in three different languages, to savor a wedge of fine Appenzeller cheese made by a farmer who knows (by name!) the cows who gave the original milk—these are for me the quintessential Alpine experiences. They're what make a visit to the Alps unforgettable—not just a holiday, but a refresher course for the soul. ■

SPECIAL EVENTS IN THE ALPS THIS SEASON:

JULY 22:

Women in Art:

The sixth edition of "Women in Art" will take place in San Candido, Italy. This year's theme "Acqua che Scorre-- Donna che Crea (Water flowing--Woman creating)." The subject is the intricate atmosphere of the town and its surroundings.

www.suedtirol.info

JULY 25 TO AUGUST 31:

Salzburg Festival:

Performances of opera, plays and concerts of the highest artistic standards over a period of five to six weeks each summer. Salzburg, Austria.

www.salzburgfestival.at

SEPTEMBER 2 TO 4:

Unspunnen Festival:

A rare treat, this colorful folk festival in Interlaken occurs only once every 12 years and features Alpine traditions like yodeling, alphorn-playing, alpine wrestling, and the throwing of the famous 167-pound Unspunnen stone. Interlaken, Switzerland.

www.unspunnenfest.ch

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www.alpseurope.com

www.austria.info/us

www.cometogermany.com

www.italiantourism.com

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THE BEST OF THE ALPS

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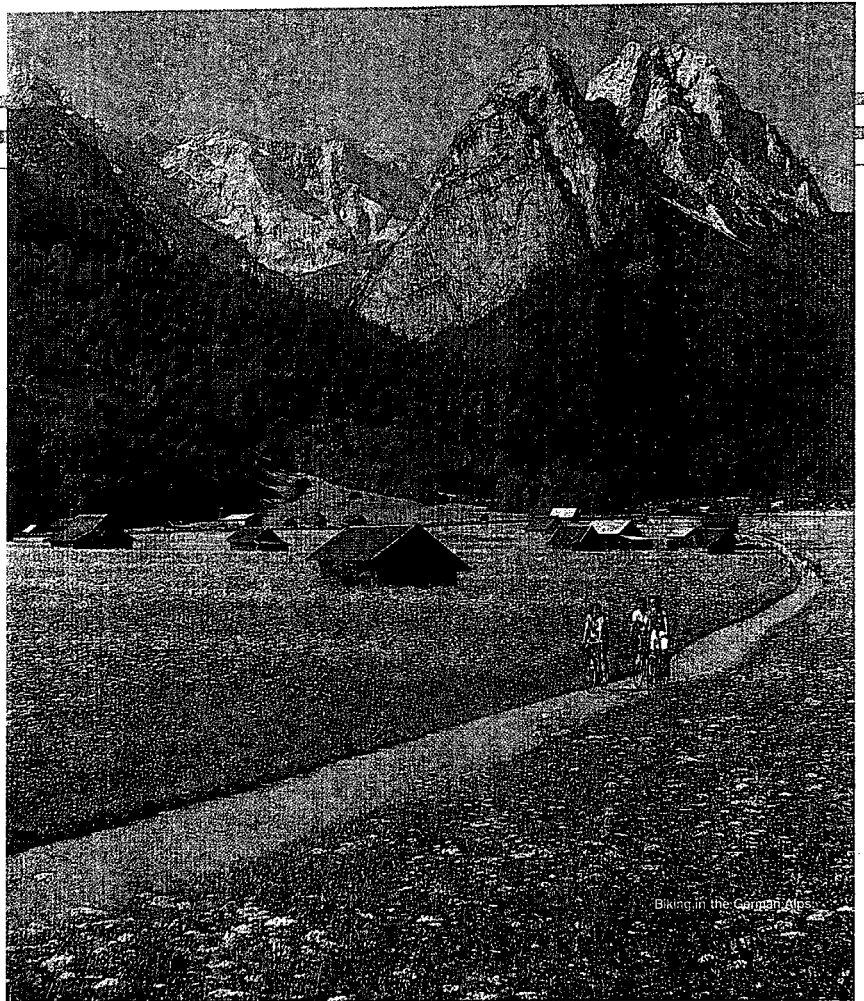
www.bestofthealps.com
headoffice@bestofthealps.com

SEPTEMBER 11 TO OCTOBER 2: Bruckner Festival 2005:

One of the many annual music festivals in the Alps, this one features the music of Anton Bruckner, but a highlight this year will be a concert performance of Wagner's *Die Walküre* under the direction of Dennis Russell Davies.

www.austria.info

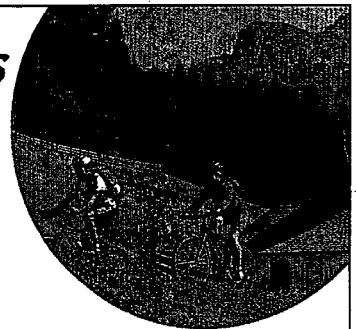
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The

September-October 2005
Volume 18, Number 5

NATIONAL SKI CLUB

NEWSLETTER

THE WOW! FACTOR

The Best, Oldest, Most, and Biggest
in Ski Country — Worldwide!

Skiing Way Out West in
Jackson Hole, Wyoming

Where will
America's Ski Clubs
Ski This Season?

ARTIST: REGINA BROWN



Garmisch-Partenkirchen

a resort for all seasons

By Helga Brenner



Germany's winter sports center is not only a skier's paradise, but also offers traditional and trendy sports such as hiking, mountain biking, hang gliding, tennis, and golf. The allergen-free air contributes to the Olympic city's fame as a year-round climactic health resort. Bavarian hospitality and excellent accommodation ranging from cozy Bed & Breakfasts to world-class hotels, never fails to make visitors from the United States feel at home. In fact, many American service men discovered their love of skiing on the slopes of the 10,000-foot Zugspitze and on the Eckbauer, Hausberg, Wank and Alpspitze mountains embracing Garmisch-Partenkirchen.

Hikers can enjoy "Brotzeit," a typically Bavarian repast, at any of the eleven huts dotting Garmisch-Partenkirchen's mountains, all part of the Wetterstein range. Unforgettable is the congenial atmosphere at Knorrhütte, Reintalhütte or Wankhaus, for example. Consider staying overnight at impressive Münchner Haus, a 108-year-old hut near the summit of the Zugspitze! An easy hike leads to Schachenhaus, King Ludwig II's solitary hunting lodge. The extravagant king's chalet, built 1871, boasts a magnificent hall in Moorish décor. Advance booking is required. Renowned hotels such as *****Hotel Reindl's Partenkirchner Hof and ****Hotel Sonnenbichl stand for the best in Alpine hospitality. Gasthof Fraundorfer, a popular inn since 1820, offers a varied menu, Bavarian music and dancing. A cozy guesthouse is on the premises. Prices are astonishingly reasonable in this Best of the Alps town. Excursions to Ludwig II's Neuschwanstein and Linderhof castles as well as Ettal Monastery and Oberammergau are on most visitors' program.

The Zugspitze is a deep-snow paradise that attracts alpine skiers, snowboarders, carvers, and freestylers from late autumn to early spring. The skiing areas are situated between 6,561 and 9,285 feet. There are 73 miles of downhill runs for all skills, including the intimidating Kandahar, a frequent stop on the World Cup tour. There are 68 miles of Nordic trails. Night skiers enjoy the floodlit Kainzerbad Loipe. Boarders demonstrate their skills on the Zugspitze plateau, where natural obstacles lend themselves to superb jumps. The wide slopes, the fun-park, and Germany's first superpipe leave nothing to be desired. Skiing instructors for all disciplines are eager to help visitors hone their skills. Picture-perfect Garmisch-Partenkirchen is a sister city of Aspen, Colorado.

www.garmisch-partenkirchen.de

Clearwater/St. Pete Ski Club in Interlaken Switzerland

Hallelujah! Finally, a ski trip with sunny weather every day. Our Interlaken hotel, the Royal St. Georges, served an excellent breakfast and dinner each day and their staff was great. It's located just ten minutes from the train station -- where the trains to the villages of Grindelwald, Wengen, and Mürren were easy to use and a lot of fun. The villages serve as base areas for the ski areas of First, Kleine Scheidegg, Mannlichen, and Schilthorn; as well as to the Jungfrauoch, often called "The Top of Europe." Our three-out-of-seven day ski passes turned out to be just what we needed to go anywhere in the region and ski anywhere, using only the ski pass for lifts, trains, and busses.

The Schiltorn ski area is capped by a revolving restaurant on the peak of Piz Gloria. This is the restaurant that was featured in the James Bond movie, *On Her Majesty's Secret Service*, and lunch there takes around an hour -- about the time it takes the restaurant to revolve 360 degrees, allowing you see all of the surrounding majestic mountains. After lunch, you take the long cruising run back to the quaint village of Mürren.

Across the valley is Wengen, another little village at the base of the Mannlichen area. On the other side of the mountain is the Klein Scheidegg ski area, with the somewhat larger village of Grindelwald at its base. The ski area of First towers over Grindelwald on the facing mountain. These areas offered good lifts, great cruisers, and three big mountains of fun!

Interlaken, means "between the lakes," and it sits at the base of the ski areas. It's a small town of about 10,000, complete with a casino, excellent restaurants, and affordable shopping. We found it to be an excellent base for a multi-resort ski trip that is both fun and affordable. For more information see www.interlakentourism.ch



CWSP ski club members in Interlaken.

Cortina d'Ampezzo Italy's Best of the Alps Resort

As one of the Dolomites' most marvelous resorts, Cortina d'Ampezzo has attracted American skiers for years, especially since the 1956 Winter Olympics. This ski village has preserved its authentic Alpine village character and it is therefore not surprising that Cortina d'Ampezzo is a member of the Best of the Alps group of classic resorts. There are twelve of these authentic resorts strewn over the Alpine countries.

Most of Cortina's runs are the dream of intermediate and advanced skiers. It's true that even non-skiers come up from the Italian plains to enjoy the Alpine ambience and to see and be seen on the Corso Italia. Cortina's location in the Belluno Dolomites grants access to the Sella Ronda, the world-famous ski circuit linking half a dozen villages. A state-of-the-art lift system whisks visitors to the top of runs opening up breathtaking views. One of the cable cars to the west takes you to Col Druscie, the starting point of a double lift to the Bus Tofana, which connects to Tofana di Mezzo (10,705 ft). From Cortina's Piazza Roma, a cable car leads to Pocol-Belvedere, a hotel complex overlooking the Cortina Valley. If you have a penchant for scrumptious Italian food, Cortina can certainly fulfill your craving. Sought-after Tivoli restaurant boasts a Michelin star and overlooks Cortina. Among Cortina's renowned hotels are Hotel Ancora and Hotel Bellevue on Corso Italia, the Cristallo Hotel and Spa, the Miramonti Majestic Grand Hotel as well as Hotel Menardi - to name but a few. Nighttime entertainment is among the Alps' most exciting. After exploring the Dolomites and falling in love with Cortina, you will want to come back for more.

For more information about Cortina, see www.bestofthealps.com.



News about the Alps



Garmisch-Partenkirchen:

- Downhill cart racing is a new fun sport for those who dare in the Zugspitze region.
- Beginning September 26, 2005, Garmisch-Partenkirchen offers weekly nordic walking tours with trained instructors, Monday-Friday.

Cortina d'Ampezzo:

- The Cortina Adrenalin Center thrills with new sensations on acrobatic traverses.
 - Wheel Taxi-Bob rushes down the Olympic run at the same speed as the winter version.
- www.cortina.dolomiti.org; www.italiantourism.com.

Bregenz:

- Thrilling Three-Country Marathon, September 28 to October 4, 2005.
- Lindau - Bregenz (Vorarlberg) - Swiss lakeside villages - Rhine River - Bregenz.

Salzburg, Kufstein, Brixen, Bad Ischl, Mayerhofen and dozens of other Austrian towns:

- "Bringing Home the Cattle" in colorful procession in September.
- (The same custom prevails also in the German, Swiss & Italian Alps. www.alpseurope.com.)

Innsbruck:

- Swarovski's special exhibition "Temporary Enchantment," depicting crystals in everyday life. Until February 5, 2006.

Salzburg:

- Salzburg Jazz Fall. October 28 to November 6, 2005. Jazz concerts, movies & exhibitions.

Alpbach:

- Europe's most beautiful flower village offers fascinating hiking, biking tours, paragliding, horseback riding and water sports. Guided walk up Thalerkogel, Sept. 28, 2005.
- www.austria.info/us.

Zürich:

- Zürich Open, international tennis tournament (Women), October 15 to 23, 2005.
- Europe's top tennis tournament on the WTA Tour, at Hallenstadion.

Basel:

- Davidoff Swiss Indoors, October 22-30, 2005. Biggest Swiss sports event; one of the world's most important indoor tournaments. In St. Jakobshalle. www.MySwitzerland.com.

For more information contact the ATC at www.alpseurope.com or:

The Austrian Tourist Office		Lake Geneva & Matterhorn Region	
212-944-6880	www.austria.info/us/	877-794-8037	www.lgmr.com
The German National Tourist Office		SWISS	
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The Italian Government Tourist Board		Swiss Travel System	www.rail.ch
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The

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2005
VOLUME 18, NUMBER 6

NATIONAL SKI CLUB

NEWSLETTER

Whistler Blackcomb

An Olympic Playground For Skiers

Ski The Cities

Salt Lake City, Reno, Montreal,
Innsbruck, Interlaken, Andorra De Vella, and Queenstown

ZERMATT

SKIING UNDER THE MATTERHORN

THE NATIONAL SKI COUNCIL FEDERATION
MEETS IN CRESTED BUTTE

The Heart-of-Colorado Ski Safari

Breckenridge, Keystone, Copper Mountain, Loveland,
Arapahoe Basin, Vail, & Beaver Creek in a week!

Grindelwald

**A Swiss Best of the Alps Resort
Offering Myriad Snow Sports Adventures**

By Heidi Brown, Editor



Grindelwald, the 750-year-old village is in excellent company: The ice-capped peaks of Eiger, Mönch, and Jungfrau stand guard in the distance, and nearby are the ski resorts of Wengen, Muerren, and Interlaken.

As an authentic village in the Bernese Oberland, Grindelwald was elected a member of the Best of the Alps, a group of twelve classic resorts with ancient traditions and village character. Mountains form the natural boundary of the 10-mile Grindelwald Valley. This winter paradise includes the Fiescherhörner and Eiger to the south, Kleine Scheidegg, Tschuggen and Männlichen to the west, the Faulhorn and Schwarzhorn to the north. In the east are Grosse Scheidegg, Wetterhorn massif and the Schreckhörner. Snow sports enthusiasts have good reasons to return to Grindelwald year after year: They want to swoosh down all of the legendary runs and enjoy the camaraderie with fellow skiers and renew friendships with hospitable hosts. Grindelwald is also a favorite with Swiss winter sports fans.

This part of the Bernese Oberland, the Jungfrau Region, has fascinated the world ever since tourism took off in the 19th century. Swiss visionaries and engineers created marvels of mountain transportation. Since the famous rack railroad to the Jungfraujoch was built almost a century ago, millions have viewed the Alps from the observatory on Europe's highest train station (11,480 ft above sea level).

The Eiger-Mönch-Jungfrau Region with its myriad snowfields is also the cradle of the Great Aletsch Glacier. The masses of snow and ice flow together at the Konkordiaplatz south of the Jungfrau and form Switzerland's longest river of ice. The Jungfrau-Aletsch-Bietschhorn region was declared a UNESCO World Natural Heritage Site in 2001.

The Jungfrau region boasts 22 blue runs (59 km, 30%); 28 red (94 km, 50%); 12 black (29 km, 20%). Experienced freeriders in search of special off-piste thrills can spend a couple of days with a mountain guide exploring this powder paradise. On the first day, they will travel from Grindelwald to First and after a short ascent tackle the Faulhorn (avalanche equipment is carried in a 20-lb back pack). On the second day, there is a tour from the Schilthorn to the Hundshorn, culminating in a stunning view of Eiger, Mönch, and Jungfrau. The long, enjoyable descent then takes them to the Sefinental valley and back to the Schilthorn skiing area. The two Adventure Days offered by the Ski School Grindelwald Sports cost approximately \$250, excluding accommodation, transportation, and meals. All equipment can be hired at Grindelwald Sports. (Minimum: 4 persons).

Accommodation in Grindelwald and the Jungfrau-Region ranges from simple Bed & Breakfasts to five-star hotels. Interlaken offers "Snow & Splendor": One night at *****Victoria-Jungfrau, one night in the Igloo camp on the Männlichen, Heli-transfer Interlaken-Männlichen, half board for CHF 777 (Approximately \$617).
www.MySwitzerland.com.

Gila Mons (CT) Trip to Cortina D'Ampezzo

By Gil Anderson, president of Gila Mons

Our group of 60 skiers and nonskiers from Connecticut went to Cortina, Italy for a week in March 2005. We had a terrific time, and would recommend it for any skiers, snowboarder, or nonskier. We utilized the Super Dolomite Ski Pass which was good for 45 ski areas. And, even though Cortina alone offers enough skiing to easily fill an entire week, we also skied the slopes of Kronplatz.

We stayed in the Concordia Parc Hotel located in the center of Cortina, which allowed us to walk to the closest tram that went up to the Faloria section of the mountain. From there it was easy to ski to other sections like Cristallo.

From Cortina, the nonskiers in our group had more to do and see than could be done in a single week. Some of them went to a wine tasting in Venice for a day, Innsbruck for another day -- and let's not forget the shopping in Cortina, which is excellent.

Our trip to Kronplatz was on a blue ski day and the bus ride there went through several little villages surrounded by beautiful scenery. The mountain is like a huge dome, with the easier skiing at the top and your choice of steeper runs or more gentle runs at the bottom. Great skiing and excellent restaurants made Kronplatz and excellent day-trip.

While Gila Mons has been running ski trips to the U.S., Canada, and Europe for twenty years, Cortina ranks at the top, as the skiing was excellent, the people and the food were great, and not a cloud in the sky for seven days. The Dolomites are spectacular to watch -- particularly at sunrise and sunset when they change colors. As for Gila Mons, we are going back in March 2006 -- this time to Val Di Fassa, another one of Italy's valleys.



Gila Mons Ski Club in Cortina, Italy. Gil Anderson is second from left. Photo: Courtesy of Gila Mons

Austria's Wilder Kaiser Mountain

Home to Fourteen Charming Ski Villages



This winter, snow sports enthusiasts may want to explore the Brixental Valley at the foot of Wilder Kaiser, yet to be discovered by American skiers. Brixen im Thale is a cultural village dating back to Celtic times. Today, it's a winter paradise offering the ambience and budget prices for which Austria is famous.

Ellmau, a sophisticated resort, boasts luxury hotels and a 27-hole golf course. Going is situated right by the slopes of Wilder Kaiser. Hopfgarten, an ancient Tirolean municipality, has its own "Hausberg," Hohe Salve. Idyllic Itter crowns a sunny plateau high above Brixental. After a day on the slopes, skiers enjoy its tasty Tirolean cuisine. If you want to discover really old houses, come to Kelchsau, a traditional village in Brixental's side valley. Scheffau is the gateway to snowfields of the Kitzbühel mountains. The beautiful village of Söll in the shadow of Hohe Salve offers myriad snow adventures. Award-winning Westendorf at Mt. Talkaser boasts new lift facilities. Here is one of Tirol's impressive winter hiking and paragliding areas, accessed by the Alpenrosenbahn Lift. The town of Wörgl offers marvelous dining and shopping opportunities: visitors flock to the cafés and boutiques after a day in the snow. Kirchbichl lies in a peaceful basin of the Inn valley. The villages of Angath, Angerberg, and Mariastein -- famous for its pilgrimage church -- are all a breath of fresh air in our hectic world.

Some slopes are gentle enough for beginners and families. All 14 villages are easily reached from Kitzbühel and the airports of Munich, Salzburg, and Innsbruck are nearby. Transfers to the Brixental Valley take only 60 to 90 minutes and are extraordinarily well priced. www.austria.info/us.

News About the Alps

Jungfrau Region:

- 76th International Lauberhorn Race, Wengen, January 13 - 16. www.lauberhorn.ch.
- 63rd International Inferno Race, Mürren, January 18 - 21, 2006. www.schilthorn.ch.
- International Snow Festival in Grindelwald, January 16 - 21, 2006, International snow sculpting. www.grindelwald.ch.

Graubünden:

- Snowboard Europe Cup, December 21 - 22, 2005, Arosa. www.arosa.ch.
 - The first international Arena Polo on Snow, Klosters, January 5 - 7, 2006. www.klosters.ch.
 - Scuol: new separate permanent airboard run www.scuol.ch.
- www.MySwitzerland.com.

Innsbruck/Bischofshofen:

- Ski Jumping, January 4 - 6, 2006. www.vierschanzen.org.

Bad Kleinkirchheim:

- Women's Ski Worldcup, January 13 - 15, 2006. www.weltcup.badkleinkirchheim.at.

Kitzbühel:

- Hahnenkamm Race, January 20 - 22, 2006 www.hahnenkamm.com www.austria.info/us.

Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Bavaria:

- Hotel Bavaria: January 5 to February 5, and March 4 to April 23, 2006: Winter Wonderland 2006: One Week/Halfboard for Euro 295; one Week/Breakfast for Euro 255, pp/week; double room. GAP-EXCLUSIVE CARD and taxes included. www.hotel-bavaria-garmisch.com.
- Hotel Leiner: December 6, 2005 to March 31, 2006: three Nights, Euro 171; seven nights, Euro 371, double room, halfboard, sauna, and more. www.hotel-leiner.de
- 54th International Ski-Jumping, January 1, 2006.
- FIS Ski World Cup (Men). Kandahar / Garmisch-Partenkirchen, January 28 - 29.
- European Curling Championships, December 9 to 17, 2005 -- 53 teams participating.
- Ski Alpin International FIS Ski Race for Women, January 7, 2006.

Munich:

- Christmas Market, November 25 to December 24, 2005. www.munich.de.

Zwiesel, Bavaria:

- FIS Ski World Cup (Women) January/February 2006. www.zwiesel.de www.cometogermany.com.

Turin, Piedmont:

- XX Olympic Winter Games, February 10 to 26, 2006. www.torino2006.org.

Kronplatz/Plan de Corone, Dolomites:

- "Early Snow" November 26 to December 23, 2005. Four days or more: 1 day free. Eight days: two days free! (Four days half board, 4-star hotel \$183). www.kronplatz.com.

Val Gardena:

- Sella Ronda Ski Marathon. Only top skiers finish the exciting 4-pass night-race. February 22, 2006.
- Christmas Weekends: special offers! www.val-gardena.it.

Alta Badia:

- Specials for families: March 18 to April 18, 2006, kids under eight don't pay!
- "Super Sun," March 25 to April 18, 2006: one sun and ski day/night free, if you stay seven days or more. Ski pass: Six days for the price of five. www.altabadia.org www.italiantourism.com.

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January-February 2006
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The

NATIONAL SKI CLUB

NEWSLETTER

Cross Border Skiing

Seven European Areas
To Ski From One Country to Another

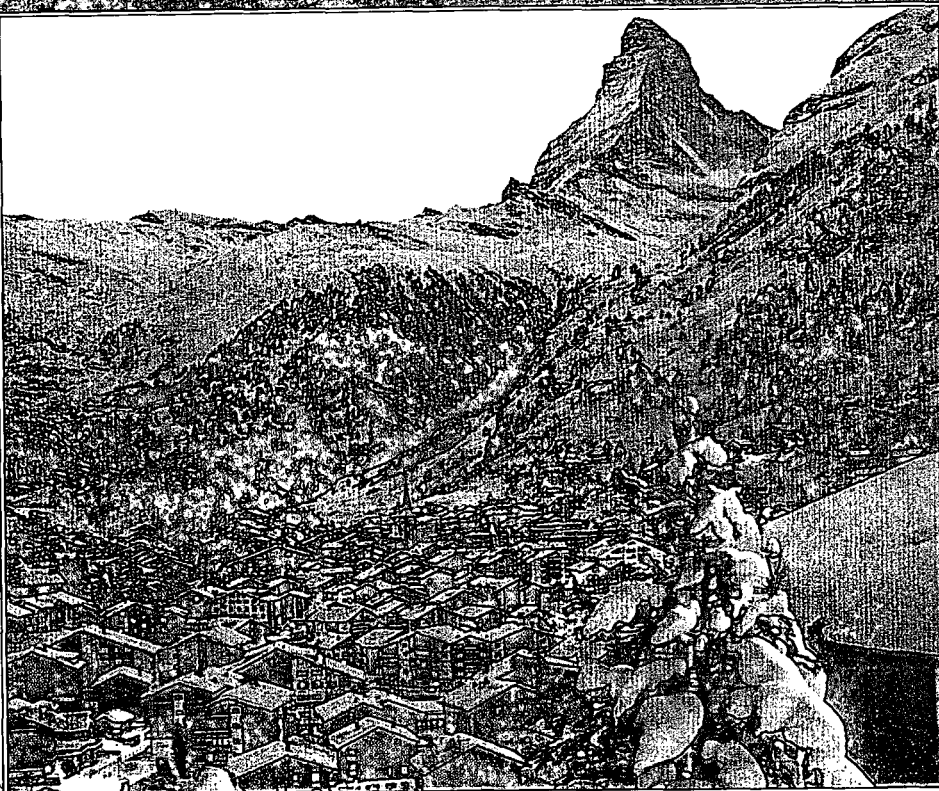
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Mythical Matterhorn - Celebrated Zermatt

By Helga Brenner

The Alps' most beautiful mountain and the ancient village nestling at its foot are for many the ultimate winter sports destination. Untold opportunities for adventures in the snow beckon in a landscape crowned not only with the striking pyramid of the Matterhorn, but ringed by another thirty-seven peaks over 13,000 feet high. Skiers and snowboarders from the United States will find offerings in Zermatt's winter paradise more affordable than they thought. Not only the High Alps and some of the world's best mountain trains, but also traditional Valaisian hospitality and fine cuisine beckon.

Visitors find everything they could wish for: Action-packed slopes and breathtaking views. Horse-drawn sleighs transport guests from the car-free village into the romantic Valaisian winter paradise. A variety of fondues, raclette and delectable Swiss wine are sampled by the fireside of cozy chalets. Visitors find bargains at the antique store, or share their thoughts in cafes, pubs or the wellness oases of world-class hotels.

Mountains such as Klein Matterhorn, Rothorn and the gorgeous Gornergrat offer some of the world's most breathtaking views and fantastic ski runs. Skiers and snowboarders will find Europe's second longest glacier flowing at their feet down on the Gorner valley floor. Zermatt has the Alps' longest skiing season and 186 miles of slopes for all levels of skills as well as 28 miles of winter hiking trails and 1.6 miles of toboggan runs. Its 74 mountain trains and lifts transport 75,700 persons per hour. During the Matterhorn Ski Safari, up to 40,000 vertical feet -- including the runs leading to the Italian region of Valtournenche -- can be skied in one day.

Accommodation ranges from simple bed & breakfast places to five-star hotels. Discerning visitors like to make such cozy hotels as the four-star La Ginabelle their base. Its pine-paneled rooms and exquisite cuisine guarantee a perfect vacation experience for the entire family. A seven-night Ski Weeks package includes half board and starts at U.S. \$1,036. www.laginabelle.ch. Another four-star hotel, Walliserhof, offers 7-night packages for approximately U.S. \$1,083. www.reconline.ch/walliserhof.

Zermatt is the quintessential Swiss mountain village in Switzerland's southwest whose ancient, sun-blackened chalets have awed many a visitor. Zermatt's authenticity certainly merits its position among the Best of the Alps resorts and its worldwide reputation. For more information, see www.zermatt.ch, www.MySwitzerland.com.

An Alpine Adventure at the Top of the World

By David Eickhoff, Asst. Trip Chair,
Space City Ski Club (TX)

Houston's Space City Ski Club sent fifty-five members to St. Moritz for some skiing, touring and beautiful scenery. It's probably Europe's most famous resort and is tucked into the side of a mountain, high above Switzerland's Engadine Valley.

At Zurich's airport, members boarded a double-decker bus for a four-hour ride with spectacular scenery and Christmas card views of the Alps, then they checked into the four-star La Margna Hotel. The accommodations were excellent and came complete with five-course dinners and full breakfasts.

Mother nature served up great skiing -- with blue skies and a bright sun at the end of the week. One group went by rail to Diavolezza Bernina, famous for its six-mile glacier descent which ends literally at the train station. "Ski in, ski out" took on a new meaning here.

Non-skiers enjoyed shopping at boutiques bearing the names Versace, Gucci, and Armani. Some visited museums or enjoyed the sinfully delectable chocolate at Hanselmann's pastry shop, while others watched the Cartier Polo World Cup -- an event consisting of polo matches played on a lake of snow-covered ice.

Since the train station was next to our hotel, a few members took advantage and rode the Bernina Express through the Alps to Tirano, Italy, while other members opted for a tour of St. Moritz's luxurious winter playgrounds of the rich and famous, past and present, like the Shah of Iran, and the famous philosophers, Nietzsche and Hesse. Overall, Space City Ski Club's trip to St. Moritz trip was a great success as the skiing, touring, and scenery were all simply spectacular!



St. Anton

A Best of the Alps
Jewel in Austria's Crown



Visitors arriving for the first time in St. Anton, the charming Arlberg resort in Tirol, gaze in wonderment at the mountains rising in front of their eyes. The excellently groomed slopes begin directly behind the market square of this tiny but world-famous village. Welcoming villagers take pride in their culinary offerings, regaling visitors in gourmet restaurants as well as on sunny terraces and in simple pubs.

Traditional handicrafts and high-quality sports gear are available in family-run boutiques and stores accustomed to an international clientèle. Many of St. Anton's winter guests coming from the United States and beyond are repeat visitors who feel at home here. What a marvelous feeling to be received like old friends by attentive hosts!

St. Anton am Arlberg, located at 4,278 ft, is a mixture of international flair and village culture. And, although it has only 2,580 permanent residents, it offers 9,000 guest-beds in all categories - from the family-run bed and breakfasts to luxurious five-star hotels.

More than 80 cable cars (up to 9,220 ft), over 160 miles of prepared trails and 110 miles of deep-powder trails as well as 20 miles of cross-country trails meet the most demanding expectations. There are two ski schools with over 350 instructors. After a day of the sunny slopes, skiers and snowboarders head to a cozy mountain hut or a lively après-ski bar for an evening of Austrian partying. St. Anton is a member of the Bests of the Alps, a group of 12 authentic resorts strewn over five Alpine countries. An outdoor ice rink, ice-carting, and a toboggan run add to the fun in this winter paradise. Only 60 miles west of Innsbruck and 120 miles east of Zurich airport, St. Anton is easily accessible by either train and car. For more information, see the websites: www.stantonamarlberg.com, www.bestofthealps.com, and www.austriantourism.com.

News About the Alps

SWITZERLAND

Zürich: Book two nights and stay for three!

Zürich Tourism has launched an exclusive offer called ZürichBREAK; twelve hotels - situated in a variety of locations from city center to lakeside -- invite guests to stay a third night free of charge, www.zuerich.com/e/zuerichbreak.htm.

Zermatt: 5th Zermatt, Rothorn Ski-Touring Race, February 25, 2006 Men, women and juniors (born 1985 or later). Elite categories: men and women. www.zermatt.ch.

St. Moritz: Cartier Polo World Cup, on the frozen St. Moritz Lake, January 26-29.

Gourmet Festival, January 30 - February 5, 2006.

Snow and Symphony, March 17-27, 2006. www.stmoritz.ch.

Grindelwald: Midweek-Hit: Three nights in a double room, superior, south facing. CHF 255 <http://www.cabana-grindelwald.ch>.

DAVOS PLUS: Seven nights from \$281.

Davos - Graubünden Nordic 2006 - FIS Cross Country Skiing World Cup, February 4-5. <http://www.davos>.

AUSTRIA

Kitzbühel: The 66th International Hahnenkamm Race. The world's best skiers participate in this world-famous downhill race, January 20 - 22, 2006.

The 2006 Music Festival, Swingin' Kitzbühel, March 24 - April 2. www.kitzbuehel.com.

Vienna: The Vienna Opera Ball 2006, February 23, 2006.

The highlight carnival season is the Viennese Opera Ball at the Vienna State Opera. <http://www.wiener-staatsoper.at>, www.austria.info/us.

ITALY

Torino 2006: XX Winter Olympic Games in Turin. February 10-26, 2006.

Major events taking place in Piedmont's Sestriere. www.italiantourism.com.

Alta Badia: La Villa -- Acrobatic ski show with the ski school La Villa, February 14, Horse sleigh-competition and skijöring, February 21-25, 2006.

Arabba/Portavescovo: Sellaronda Skimarathon, February 25, 2006. <http://www.altabadia.it>, <http://www.suedtirol.info>.

Bruneck is a skiing paradise near Kronplatz mountain. It offers the Dolomiti Super Kids seven-day special: Children from age 8 - 12 pay 50% and kids up to 8 years of age are free in parents' room. March 25 to April 23, 2006 http://www.bruneck.com/kids_en.htm
Bikers Meet, May 1, 2006: To conclude the long winter season of the Kronplatz region, bikers meet every year on May 1. No biker or biking enthusiast should miss the spring tour to Bruneck <http://www.bruneck.com/events.htm>, www.italiantourism.com.

GERMANY

Garmisch-Partenkirchen: Hotel Roter Hahn offers two days of snow fun in Garmisch. The "SKI-SPASS" ("SKI FUN") package starts at EUR 135 per person. A two day pass to ski either the Zugspitze or the Classic Area is included. <http://www.hotel-roter-hahn.com>; info@hotel-roter-hahn.com.

Igloo Village on the top of the Zugspitze: High above the clouds in Germany's top ski resort overlooking four countries. Choose from accommodation in a group igloo or romantic suite! <http://www.garmisch-partenkirchen.de>.

Free Flight 2006: The biggest exhibition of its kind in the world. The 8th Annual Free Flight will be held in the Olympic-Ice-Stadium April 7-9, 2006. <http://www.garmisch-partenkirchen.de>, www.cometogermany.com.

For more information contact the ATC at www.alpseurope.com or:

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March-April 2006
Volume 19, Number 2


The

NATIONAL SKI CLUB

NEWSLETTER

New Year's Eve in Salt Lake

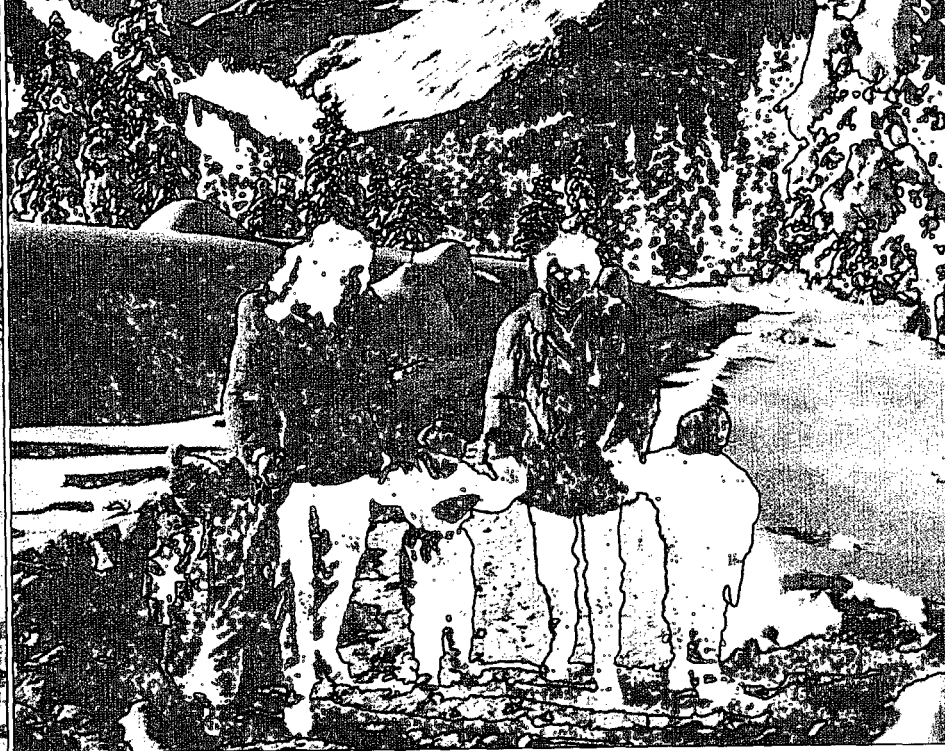
Ski Nine Resorts While Based in the City

 Schedule Your Next Trip Around
an Event and/or Festival

Quebec City Based Ski Trip

Lech-Zürs

Ski village of international acclaim
Austria's Zugspitze Brenner



Some skiers may ask, "What's Lech's claim to fame?" It's an Austrian powder-snow heaven with the advantages of a resort that evolved naturally. A century ago, 700-year-old Lech was a quiet farming village. Then came the vicar of Warth and wedged down the slopes of the Arlberg. Little did he know that this would change the course of history in the bucolic village. The ingenuity of its inhabitants, who trace their ancestry back to the Walsers, has turned Lech-Zürs into a skiing paradise and luxurious resort. Lech won an award as Europe's most beautiful village in 2004, and in 2006, Zürs will celebrate 100 years of lessons in schussing, telemarking and the stem turn.

Thanks to excellent snow conditions, world-class restaurants and elegant hotels, many of this Best of the Alps resort's guests are repeat visitors. Family-friendly Lech's American guests appreciate the warm hospitality and state-of-the-art facilities as well as the ski schools.

In the last five years, 50 million euros have been invested in lifts, snow-making equipment and mountain infrastructure. Today, 86 modern cable cars and lifts servicing 280 km of ski slopes and 180 km powder snow runs can be accessed with the Arlberg ski pass. Situated at 1,450 meters, Lech-Zürs extends over 90 square kilometers. Skiing takes place between 1,450 and 2,800 meters. The ski region -- Lech, Oberlech, Stubenbach, Zug and Zürs -- is famous for its deep powder snow. The electronic "Arlberg-Skicard" is also valid in St. Anton, Stuben and St. Christoph.

Lech's new six-person chairlift with protective bubble and heated seats replaces the Hexenboden lift. Skiers now check their speed in Oberlech on a schuss run. And on the new parallel slalom course, near the Hintervies lift in Lech, guests feel they are in a downhill racer's paradise. Snowboarders show their skills in the Fun Park and Nordic skiers have 26 kilometers of cross-country tracks at their disposal. Nonskiers enjoy winter hiking trails, a natural toboggan run and romantic horse-drawn sleigh rides. Austria is still affordable, even in the Arlberg region. Accommodation ranges from cozy bed & breakfast places to five-star hotels. Ski in and ski out -- what could be more time-efficient? Vacation time is all too short, especially in a place like Lech-Zürs. For more information, see www.lech-zuers.at or www.austria.info.

Sanctuary Ski Club of Illinois Skis Chamonix

By Denis Dywan, Trip Leader

Given the 12,604 ft. altitude at Mount-Blanc in Chamonix, the highest mountain in Europe, we felt like we were on top of the world when we got off the cable car at Aiguille du Midi. The views are truly spectacular! The skiing in Chamonix was great! There was plenty of snow and the lines were short. Chamonix uses a "smart card," rather than a lift ticket and the lift cards cost us between 27 and 35 Euros -- far cheaper than skiing in the U.S.A.

On Tuesday, our guide took us on a tour of Annecy, and we had time to relax for lunch and sip wine along the river at outdoor cafes.

On Wednesday, 35 of our 43 participants signed up to go to Italy on our own bus. Half of us skied Courmayeur, Italy, and the rest ventured on to explore the historic Roman town of Aosta. Some even tried paragliding in the Alps -- in between pitchers of French wine! Several people hired guides to ski the 14-mile Vallee Blanche Glacier. Nearly everyone rode the cable car up to the Aiguille du Midi for awesome views of Mont-Blanc. We could see all the way to the Matterhorn. Most also rode the cog rail train to the Mer de Glace (River of Ice) where they walked into an ice cave dug into the Vallee Blanche glacier!

On Saturday, we boarded our bus for the three-hour trip through France to Lyon and, where we met our guide for a city tour. The tour gave us an overview of many of the highlights of Lyon and led us through secret passageways (traboules) in the old town. Our four-star hotel was located on an island surrounded by two rivers in the heart of Lyon. The nearby funicular took us up Fourviere Hill to a 15 B.C. Roman Amphitheater and the spectacular Notre Dame Basilica.



St. Moritz

Glittering Jewel of the Swiss Alps and Best of the Alps Resort

St. Moritz is the quintessential Swiss ski village and arguably the world's most famous resort. It was here that winter vacations were born. In 1864, the first winter tourists arrived on account of a bet between Johannes Badrutt, and British guests staying at his hotel. Snow sports enthusiasts from around the globe have flocked to this paradise in the Engadine Mountains ever since. Sixty modern transportation facilities open up on 350 km of snow-covered runs at altitudes from 1800 to 3300 meters above sea level. Kitesailing on Lake Silvaplana is one of the adrenaline-driven sports available to skiers in St. Moritz.

As an authentic resort that is preserving its traditions while introducing state-of-the-art facilities and infrastructure, St. Moritz is a member of the Best of the Alps group of twelve classic resorts strewn throughout the Alpine countries. St. Moritz is nestled at 1,800 meters in breathtaking scenery near the Italian border, presided over by Piz Nair and Piz Corvatsch. In the first millennium B.C the Celts roamed these mountains. In 1563 Paracelsus praised the local mineral springs. As early as 1884 the Cresta Run was built from St. Moritz to Celerina. This skeleton run is on many a winter visitor's "to-do" list.

Besides Badrutt's Palace, there are such eclectic five-star hotels as the Kulm, the Kempinski Grand Hotel Des Bain, or the Suvretta House nestling in the mountains. Today St. Moritz has a wide range of accommodations and skiers and snowboarders on a budget can opt to stay at chalets and budget hotels. Most important in this glamorous village is that special feeling of elation while schussing down the sunny slopes of Corviglia, cruising the Diavolezza glacier, or mastering the black-rated Hahnensee run on Corvatsch.



News About the Alps



Resort News

Garmisch-Partenkirchen

The latest attraction on Germany's tallest mountain: An igloo village atop the 10,000 ft Zugspitze. Enjoy the breathtaking vistas of four countries and spend a special night under ice and snow. Sleep in a group igloo or in a romantic suite! Eskimo artists built these igloos! Relax in an igloo whirlpool under the stars. Fortify yourself with an original gourmet Swiss Cheese Fondue. The igloos can be booked until the end of May.

Evening tobogganing is offered once again on the toboggan run at the Hausberg, one of the four mountains presiding over picturesque 1200-year Garmisch-Partenkirchen. On its terrace, Bayernhaus will serve mulled wine to the tobogganists. Indoors, in the cozy restaurant, hearty Bavarian cuisine and drinks are enjoyed, while a lively Bavarian band adds to the high spirits. On the same mountain, the International Ski Race for Guests will take place (various dates for both events). See www.garmisch-partenkirchen.de or www.cometogermany.com.

News about the Alps

St. Moritz: Snow and Symphony -- the perfect symbiosis of winter sports and classical music in the wintry Engadine. World-famous orchestras perform in elegant hotels and against the splendid backdrop of the Corvatsch and Corviglia. The festival begins at the end of March. www.stmoritzfestival.ch.

38th Engadine Ski Marathon. Traditional cross-country race, Maloja to S-chanf (42km), March 12, 2006.

Alta Badia: The starting point of fascinating ski tours in the Dolomites. Among the First World War Tours, Alta Badia's Santa Croce Tour stands out. Colfosco holds a hay sleigh competition on March 16, 2006. See www.altabadia.org.

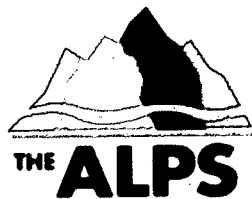
Sellaronda Ski Marathon, March 3, 2006: Four Ladin valleys around the Sella massif will host the 12th edition of the international night touring ski competition around the Sella group of mountains. It extends for 42 kilometers and includes Arabba -Canazei - Sella - Corvara. Registration by February 6. Contact skiteamfassa@tin.it. See www.suedtirol.info or www.dolomitisuperski.com.

Lech-Zürs: Sun Skiing, a six-day package available March 25 to April 8, 2006, Arlberg ski pass included. Prices and reservation on request. Contact reservation@lech-zuers.at; Austrian Alpine Ski Championships, March 26 to 30, 2006. See www.lech-zuers.at.

For more information contact the ATC at www.alpseurope.com or:

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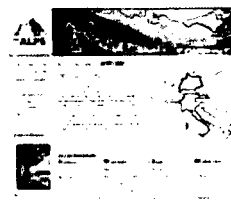
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3. [Germany beckons with great winter offerings](#)
4. [Austria: Snow adventures and village ambience](#)

1. Italy hosts Winter Olympics 2006 in Turin

The northwestern Italian Alps will be the center of attention during the **XX Olympic Winter Games** from **February 10 to 26, 2006**. The sports show of the year will be hosted by Turin. Many of the Olympic skiing events will take place in Piedmont bearing the beautiful name of "Milky Way", which includes Sestriere, Sauze d'Oulx, Sansicario, Cesana, and Claviere. Nearby is a pass where Hannibal crossed the Alps with his elephants in 218 B.C. On the northeastern side of the Italian Alps, the Dolomites are also beckoning with special offerings. The Badia Valley, Val Gardena and Cortina d'Ampezzo, which hosted Italy's first Winter Olympics in 1956, are perennial favorites. The Women's Alpine Ski World Cup will take place in Cortina from January 27 to 29, 2006....



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2. Switzerland's irresistible new winter offerings

Whether it's the Alpine Arena in Flims-Laax, or a new permanent airboard run in Scuol, or 100 years of skijoring on St. Moritz Lake, Graubünden is one of the Alps' most enticing winter sports regions. Not only in



Graubünden, indeed all over Switzerland, new attractions and facilities add to the lure of this beautiful land. In Central Switzerland, Engelberg's new 4-seater gondolas delight visitors, and Sattel-Hochstuckli boasts the world's first 8-seater Rondorama Gondola Lift with revolving cabins. Adelboden, in the Bernese Oberland, has a new 4-seater lift for its World Cup ski run. Saas-Fee, in the canton of Valais, is home to two newly renovated 4-star hotels, multiple-seat gondolas. The resort offers eclectic gourmet-hiking packages. Kids ski free in many Swiss villages - what more could doting parents ask for?



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3. Germany beckons with great winter offerings

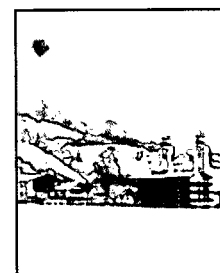
In the coming season, Bavaria will roll out the red carpet for its visitors from the United States and beyond. Start your winter vacation in Munich, capital of Germany's southernmost state. Enjoy the 600-year-old Christkindl Market and bring home handcrafted gifts that are sure to become heirlooms. Legendary hotels, cozy Bavarian restaurants and beer gardens will get you in the mood for the typical Alpine hospitality of the nearby mountains, where you can recharge your batteries without breaking the bank. Whether it's schussing down the Kandahar in Garmisch-Partenkirchen or ski jumping in Oberstdorf - which is also famous for downhill skiing into Kleinwalsertal, the friendly neighboring Austrian Valley - the German Alps hold many surprises. American servicemen stationed in this region have often sung the praises of the ski slopes of the Bavarian Alps.



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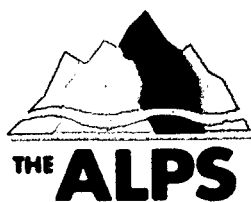
4. Austria: Snow adventures and village ambience

This winter, snow sports enthusiasts may want to explore the Brixental Valley and its fourteen villages still waiting to be discovered by American skiers and snowboarders. Some of the resorts may be familiar to inveterate fans of Europe's wide slopes, but others may be new. The fourteen villages in the Mountain World Wilder Kaiser - Brixental form one of the most multifaceted vacation regions in Tirol. Vacationers booking a stay in one of these authentic jewels in Tirol, will reap the benefits of invigorating activities in the snow-covered mountains and wholesome gastronomic delights at the extraordinarily reasonable prices Austria is famous for.



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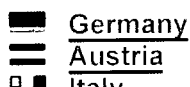
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1. Incomparable vacations at the foot of the Matterhorn

This year, come to Zermatt for vacations with a difference! A feeling of awe overcomes you when you view the Matterhorn, the world's most photographed mountain for the first time, and when you discover the ancient, sun-blackened houses that reveal the most modern comfort when the doors are opened. The picturesque car-free village of Zermatt is hidden in the immensity of the Alpine world presided over by 38 peaks over 38,000 feet high. Whether you stay in a wooden chalet or at a starred hotel, the total change of pace will invigorate and delight you. Check out welcoming hotels such as La Ginabelle.

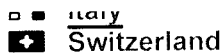
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2. The German Alps: ready to roll out the red carpet

Visitors from the United States will find the red carpet rolled out for them in the hotels and inns of Bavaria's cosmopolitan cities, in salubrious spa resorts and centuries-old villages. Book early to avoid the rush of the holiday season and get the best rates! Downhill and Nordic skiing, winter hiking and a trendy sports scene await you in **Garmisch-Partenkirchen** at the foot of the





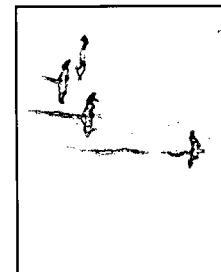
Zugspitze. The 2- or 3-night **Gap-Ski-Classic** is practically a give-away! Go on a tour of Bavaria and discover **Altötting**, the famous pilgrimage town, and **Oberstdorf**, the skiing and ski jumping paradise near King Ludwig's castles. Or enjoy delightful resorts such as **Bad Tölz**, **Bad Reichenhall** and **Berchtesgaden** on the German Alpine Road.



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3. Italian highlights: Winter Olympics and Dolomiti Superski

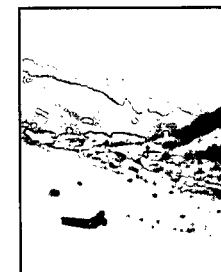
Italy's Alpine regions have much to offer this winter: The western Alps will be the venue of **Torino 2006, the XX Winter Olympic Games** from February 10 to 26, 2006 in Turin, with major events taking place in Piedmont's Sestriere (www.italiantourism.com). The **Dolomites** in Italy's eastern Alps will once again draw skiers and snowboarders from the United States and beyond to the villages linked to Dolomiti Superski. From beginners to champions — everyone enjoys this powder paradise. One single ski pass is valid for 12 regions and 758 miles of slopes! **Cortina d'Ampezzo**, **Alta Badia** and **Kronplatz** are among the resorts linked to Dolomiti Superski. See their specials...



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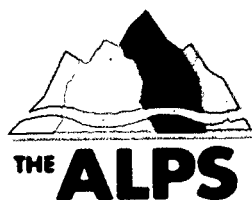
4. Austrian Winter Offerings as affordable as ever

Extraordinary value for your money defines vacations in the Austrian Alps. Friendly hosts, cozy evenings in mountain huts and a lively après ski scene add to the lure of an Austrian vacation. Skiing, snowboarding, winter hiking and the latest trend sports are enjoyed in Tirol and beyond. Splendid cultural offerings are an extra bonus before or after a winter sports vacation. **Salzburg** celebrates Mozart during the 250th anniversary year in 2006. **Kitzbühel** pulls out all stops with sparkling events from December 8 - 11, 2005. **St. Anton** opens the Arlberg season on November 25 with a bash. **Vienna** is always a cultural treat. Book a Schönbrunn Palace tour and dinner and listen to Mozart and Johann Strauss...



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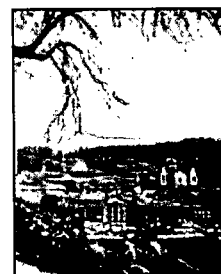
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8. [Glide over the Alps in a balloon - vacation offerings in Arosa.](#)

1. Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's 250th Birthday - Salzburg is calling all Mozart enthusiasts

In honor of the country's favorite son, Austria will stage celebrations throughout the land in 2006. Many of the events will take place in Salzburg, Mozart's birthplace. Book now to secure the best rates! New museums, compelling operatic performances and extraordinary concerts, festivals, special exhibitions and festive galas will make your visit an unforgettable experience. Salzburg's Carolino Augusteum Museum, located in the Neue Residenz, will stage a major special exhibition, "Viva! MOZART", from January 27 2006 to January 7, 2007. The Salzburg Festival, "Mozart 22", will draw opera buffs to this beautiful town from July 21 to August 31, 2006.

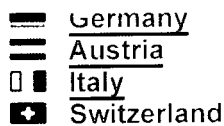


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2. Kitzbuehel, the perfect Tirolean town and home of the famous "Hahnenkammrennen"

One of the world's most cherished ski resorts, Kitzbuehel, is nestled in the pristine mountain world of Tirol. The lovely Alpine town has preserved its authenticity and is a member of the *Best of the Alps* group of resorts. The snow-covered mountains, the exhilarating après-ski atmosphere after a day on the slopes and the typical hospitality of the cozy Tirolean restaurants and hotels make a vacation in Kitzbuehel a



[Germany](#)[Austria](#)[Italy](#)[Switzerland](#)

magical experience. Even in 2006, visitors from the United States will find a vacation in Kitzbuehel and the entire region of Tirol as affordable as ever. Check out the marvelous rates!

[Read More >>](#)

3. Schussing down the slopes of Garmisch-Partenkirchen

The diversity of Garmisch-Partenkirchen's ski areas makes this resort town every ski enthusiast's dream. Many American service men discovered their love of skiing on the Zugspitze, Germany's highest mountain, a glacier. Garmisch-Partenkirchen, a *Best of the Alps* resort, is a veritable treasure waiting to be discovered by the larger skiing public of the United States. The Happy Ski Card covers all regional lift systems and is valid even in the adjacent Austrian border area. Garmisch-Partenkirchen's excellent runs, affordable accommodation, and myriad star-studded events meet the expectations of the most discerning visitors to Germany's winter sports capital.



[Read More >>](#)

4. Live like royalty in Germany

Munich is your gateway to the German Alps. Don't miss the unique ambience of this lovely city, which is rightly called a "City with a heart". Munich is known for its hospitality and fine luxury hotels, but also visitors on a tight budget can find suitable accommodation. Extraordinarily beautiful towns, villages, and castles can be easily reached from Munich by train or bus. One such picturesque town is Murnau am Staffelsee, in the vicinity of King Ludwig's castles. Take a look, it's only a mouseclick away...



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5. Courmayeur courts skiers from around the world

On the Italian side of the Monte Bianco, as the Mont Blanc is called in Italian, you will find the popular resort of Courmayeur, beloved by skiers from around the world. On weekends, the chic Italian crowd hits the slopes and in the evening populates the center of town to enjoy the gastronomic offerings, to immerse itself in the après-ski scene, and to see and be seen. Prime skiing is of course the main attraction on Courmayeur's excellent slopes. Come and stay at a 16th century fortified house and enjoy the good life. Book early, space is limited.



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6. XX Olympic Winter Games, Torino 2006 - February 10 to 26

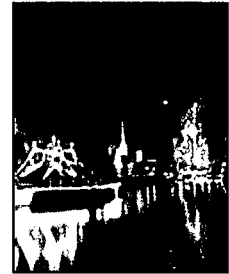
The Olympic Torch has passed from Greece to Italy and is criss-crossing the Italian territory before it reaches Torino in time for the opening of the XX Olympic Games on February 10, 2006. Visitors will be enthralled by the Olympic performances under the sunny skies of Italy's Piedmont, in the country's western Alps.



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7. Zürich - epicenter of culture, beauty and atmosphere.

Explore Zürich, the gateway to the Swiss Alps, by means of the excellent tours offered in this fabulous metropolis. Discover the highlights of the present by following the trail of the past: Zürich Tourism offers a wide range of guided city tours so visitors may see not only the marvelous sights of this vibrant city, but also get an inkling of the enormous cultural offerings of Zürich. Come and see the latest Swiss masterpiece, "The World's Largest Timepiece". It is casting a new light on Bahnhofstrasse, the shopping paradise. On New Year's Eve, a band of light will emit effervescing sparks just like fireworks. Zürich is on the cutting edge of culture and entertainment. It is by now no secret that Zürich's nightlife has some of the most exciting offerings of the European continent.



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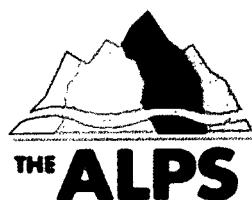
8. Glide over the Alps in a balloon - vacation offerings in Arosa.

Arosa has attracted skiers and their families for decades. They value the village's fine slopes and its long tradition of hospitality, a hallmark of the entire canton of Graubünden. The fact that Arosa has many repeat visitors speaks for itself. The next international [Alpine Balloon Week](#) will take place in Arosa from January 29 to February 3, 2006. [Arosa's Winter Golf Tournament](#) is held from February 4 to 5, 2006. Experience is unforgettable. Find out more...



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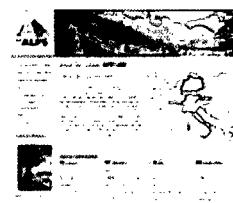
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A Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year to all Readers of the ATC Newsletter

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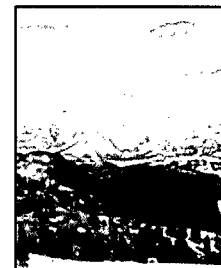
1. The Italian Alps:
 Winter Olympics in Turin. Relaxation in South Tirol. Skiing in the Dolomites

Direct links to:

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XX Winter Olympics in Turin

Thanks to the spectacular mountains of the western Alps surrounding it, Turin has been chosen to host the **XX Winter Olympics**. Concurrent with the Winter Olympic Games there will be the **Cultural Olympiad**. Besides competitions and awards ceremonies, there are exhibitions and other cultural events - extraordinary opportunities not to be missed!



Relaxation in South Tirol

In the eastern Alps, resort valleys like Alta Badia in South Tirol and Cortina in Belluno Province beckon with wellness hotels and prime skiing against the backdrop of the magnificent Dolomites. See the region's tempting hotel offerings.

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2. Austria's manifold offerings:

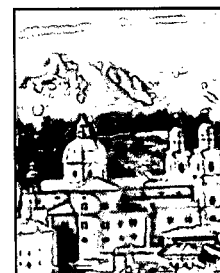
Innsbruck's options for fun in the snow. Salzburg's great plans to honor Mozart.

Winter fun in Austria

The Stubai Glacier represents one of the most extensive all-year-skiing areas in the Eastern Alps with 68 miles of slopes and off-slope tracks for all levels of difficulty and a 2.8-mile high altitude cross-country track. Innsbruck, home of the architecturally unique Bergisel Ski Jump Tower, has nine fantastic skiing areas at its doorstep.

The memory of Mozart in myriad exhibitions and concerts.

Salzburg is the bastion of all Mozart festivities and concerts. See the amazing efforts and plans that are underway...



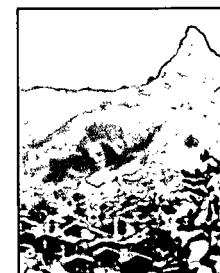
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3. Switzerland's splendor:

Pristine villages and superb cities. Beloved resorts' specials. Art Basel - sought-after art fair.

Switzerland's splendor: revealed in pristine villages and splendid cities

Switzerland's splendor reveals itself in her glittering villages - from Arosa to Zermatt, and Adelboden to Scuol. It also shines in such cultural centers as Basel, Bern, Locarno and Zürich. Enjoy the best of all worlds at **Snow and Symphony** in St. Moritz at the end of March. Take advantage of hotel specials, for example, the Hotel Adonis offerings in Zermatt. Join the hip Swiss boarders and carvers, and the young and young-at-heart set on the slopes of Engelberg, Grindelwald and Interlaken - against the magnificent backdrop of the Titlis, Eiger, Mönch and Jungfrau. **Art Basel** - The world's most prestigious art fair attracts 50,000 visitors to this fair city on the Rhine.



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4. Chamonix-Mont Blanc hosts the Kandahar - rendezvous of the world's best skier

Chamonix - a Classic Alpine Resort

France's world-renowned ski village at the foot of the Mont Blanc is one of the *Best of the Alps* resorts. Like



the other 12 member-resorts, Chamonix was awarded this distinction on account of its authenticity and Alpine ambience. The Kandahar, the Men's Alpine World Cup will take place in Chamonix Mont-Blanc in February. It is the exciting rendezvous of the world's best skiers as well as international snow sport enthusiasts.



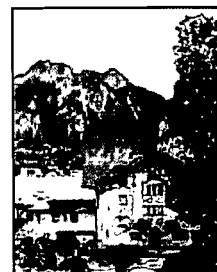
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5. The romance of Bavaria:

Lovely landscapes; salubrious spas; cultural events; skiing on the Zugspitze

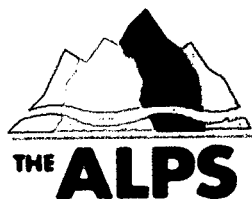
The romance of Bavaria: lovely landscape, salubrious spas

Forget the stress of the recent holidays - come to Bavaria's winter wonderland. Enjoy the snow, salubrious spas, and special events! In the Allgäu region, in the foothills of the German Alps, you will find a romantic cultural landscape defined by such sites as the Rococo Church in the Wies, Oberammergau with its famous woodcarvings and painted facades, as well as King Ludwig's Neuschwanstein Castle. Sleep in the legendary's castle's shadow - at the Rubezahl, a chalet hotel that has cast a magic spell on visitors from the United States for over a decade.



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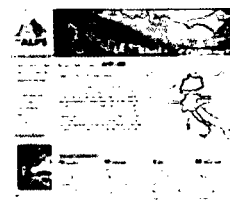


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1. Swiss offerings: Trend Hotel in Savognin. Igloos in Grindelwald. Golfing above Zurich

The romantic resort of **Savognin** in Graubünden has opened **The Cube**, a trend hotel that is just right for the young set whose priorities are sports and fun in the snow rather than comfort and luxury. Prices are excellent!



Grindelwald has a new Igloo Village at the foot of the awe-inspiring Eiger North Face - the perfect romantic get-away for those who want to get an inkling of what the pioneering days of Alpine tourism were like.

Golfing above the roofs of Zürich, is offered at the 4-star Hotel Dolder Waldhaus, ideal for visitors who want to tee off upon arrival in one of the world's great Alpine countries.

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2. Fascinating visits to Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Munich and Spitzingsee

Switzerland

Snow biking in Garmisch-Partenkirchen, the new trend sport for non-skiers! This popular 1200-year-old *Best of the Alps* resort has a wide range of offerings.

When in Munich, explore Munich's famous outdoor markets: Savor a Bavarian lunch at **Viktualienmarkt**. Sample treats, and collect treasures on **Elisabethmarkt**. Both markets are open daily, except Sundays. In April you can visit a seasonal market with a difference, the **Auer Dult**, the traditional seasonal fair dating from the 14th century.

Munich offers fantastic day trip opportunities: Snow sports, castles, lakes, and quaint villages. Escape for a day to **Spitzingsee**, a paradisiacal skiing area at Munich's doorstep! Wide slopes, both prepared and unprepared, and a fun park are just an hour's train ride from Munich.

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3. The magical Dolomites, home of the Sellaronda Ski Marathon

The Dolomites in the eastern Italian Alps are a fascinating destination for winter visitors in general and skiers in particular. American visitors - some of whom may have attended the Winter Olympics in Turin in Italy's northwest and don't want to tear themselves away from the Italian mountains just yet - will savor a sojourn in the east, in Italy's Dolomite region. Rushing down the legendary slopes and experiencing the après-ski scene in the Alta Badia Valley, surrounded by the Dolomite peaks resplendent in their pink glow at dusk, is an unforgettable experience. This is a land with thousands of years of history where you can retrace also the recent past: Ski tours to World War I trenches are organized regularly. Alta Badia has multifaceted offerings for visitors and a large heart for children: Kids stay for free!



The **Sellaronda Ski Marathon** is coming up in March. Be a part of this unique event - even if only as a spectator!

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4. Winter Pleasures in the French Alps: Skiing in Megève and surroundings

A Garden of Eden in the French Alps—Megève. This lovely village has preserved its authenticity while offering state-of-the-art facilities. It comes as no surprise, therefore, that Megève was elected a member of the distinctive *Best of the Alps* group of twelve classic resorts scattered throughout the Alpine countries. Aside from its sought-after ski slopes, Megève has the advantage of being close to Mont Blanc, western Europe's highest mountain range. Visitors from the

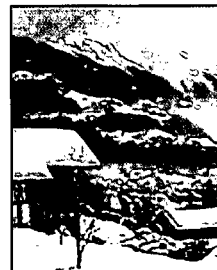


United States and beyond will feel at home in one of the welcoming chalet hotels. Accommodations are available for every budget and preference. Come and enjoy the powdery slopes of Megève and the legendary culinary offerings of France.

[Read More >>](#)

5. Surprises galore in the Montafon Valley: Delightful resorts in Austria's Vorarlberg

The Montafon Valley does not only have a resounding name - it offers plenty of amenities. This valley in the Vorarlberg province is well worth being discovered by the larger American public. Its villages Schruns, Gaschurn and Gargellen are attracting serious skiers. A warm welcome awaits you in Montafon's cozy hotels, for instance, at the Sport- und Vitalhotel Bachmann in Gargellen, or at Alpenhof Messmer in Schruns. "Ski in/Ski out" is one of the marvelous benefits of staying at hotels in the Montafon Valley—they let you maximize your precious vacation time. Austrian hotels are renowned for their hospitality and astonishingly affordable prices.



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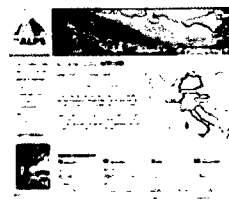


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1. Music, Mozart, Mountains - three of Austria's great attractions

What comes to mind when one thinks of Austria? Music, Mozart, Mountains. Experience **The Best of Mozart** in concerts and exhibitions in Salzburg and beyond throughout the Mozart Year 2006!

Kitzbühel, one of Austria's Best of the Alps resorts welcomes visitors to its "**Swingin' Kitzbühel Music Festival**" from March 24 to April 2, 2006. Like in all Alpine countries, spring is a magical season in Austria, and it's not too late to shoulder your skis or snowboard and head to the mountains, where powder snow is guaranteed well into April.

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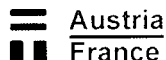


2. The Rhone-Alps - a French region that has it all

Easily accessible, the Rhone-Alps region offers snow sports on the Mont-Blanc throughout the year and hiking, biking, paragliding, rafting and fishing at lower elevations in spring and summer. As regards skiing and snowboarding, Chamonix, Megève, Courchevel and Val d'Isère are among the legendary French resorts on the wish list of many a sports connoisseur from the United



Direct links to:





States and beyond.



Europe's largest lake, Lac Lèman, as the French call Lake Geneva, adjoins the northern part of the French Alps and is home to such legendary spa towns as Evian. Explore your options in the Rhone-Alps and discover cultural and culinary delights along the way. Whether it's sports in the Alps, or art, architecture and cuisine in historic cities and delightful towns, the French offerings are amazing. Let a virtual tour tempt you...

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3. Springtime in the Dolomites - Sun and Snow

Cortina d'Ampezzo - "The Queen of the Dolomites" - is nestled in the breathtaking Belluno Dolomites. Mediterranean sun adds to the magic of skiing the powdery slopes. The snow sports season lasts until mid-April. As the weather gets warmer, hikers and trekkers replace skiers on the mountain pastures and slopes. And the steep rocks and rugged ridges of the Dolomites are a dream come true for mountain climbers. Cortina's mountain guides not only guide you safely through the Dolomites but they will also answer all your questions on the history and culture of the region. Come and celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Cortina Winter Olympics and fall in love with the Dolomites.



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4. A visit to Lake Chiemsee - the stuff dreams are made of

A Garden of Eden in the French Alps Lake Chiemsee, Bavaria's largest lake, is the stuff dreams are made of. Set against the backdrop of the Alps, it offers untold possibilities for an unforgettable vacation - hiking and biking, yachting, golfing, island-hopping are all enjoyed here. An excellent starting point for activities is the lovely lakeside resort of Prien. From its harbor, ferries take visitors to the famous islands of Herrenchiemsee and Fraueninsel. King Ludwig's Herrenchiemsee Palace is a must-do on a visit to this magnificent lake in the Chiemgau, as this region is called. Check out some of the tempting offerings...



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5. Zürich - ultra-modern gateway to the Alps

Switzerland's glorious cities are both ancient and ultra-modern. Zürich, the country's largest city, draws visitors from home and abroad to its historic quarters on both sides of the Limmat River, its legendary shopping opportunities on Bahnhofstrasse and Limmatquai, luxurious hotels, museums of all descriptions as well as its cutting-edge art scene and nightlife. There is



accommodation for every budget and taste from B&B places to luxury hotels. Unforgettable day trips are easily arranged in Zürich, just hop on a yellow PostBus or take a train ride through the delightful countryside. The lakes are near and so are the mountains...



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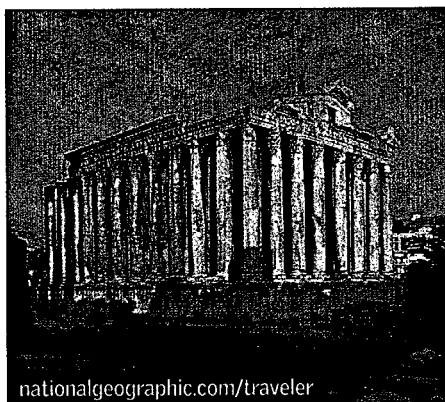
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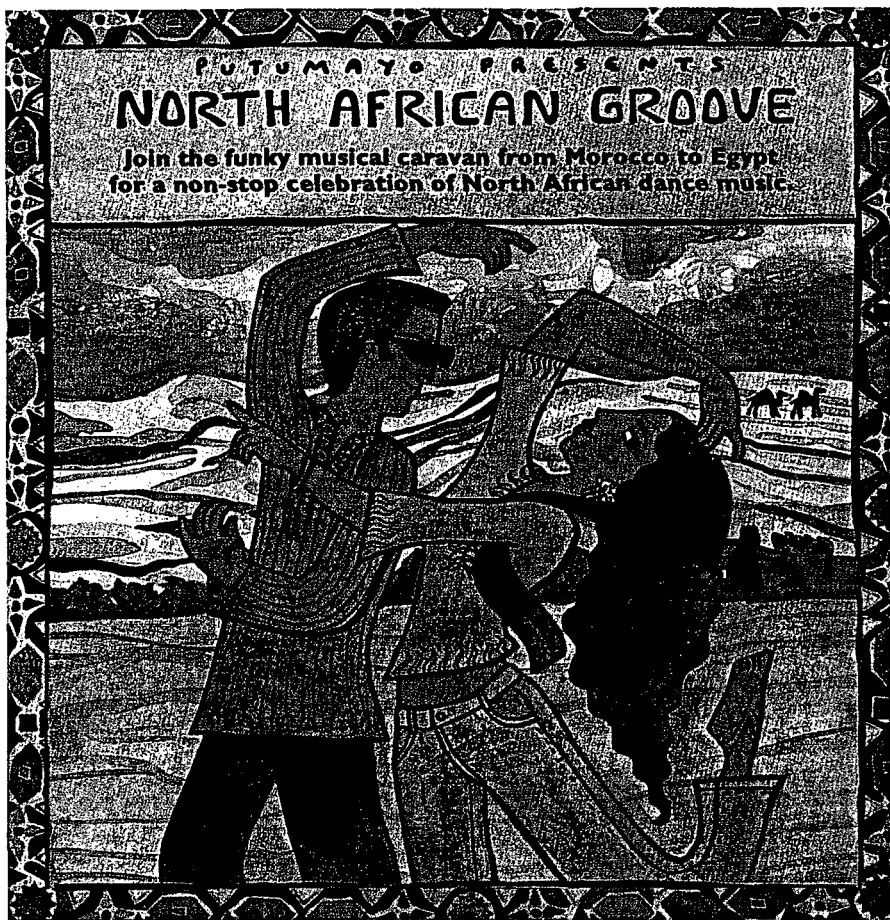
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[What's New] Portland, Oregon

Flush with places boasting cozy fireplaces, the city is warm and welcoming—as well as right-now hip and fun.

Vault Martini Bar This hot spot dials the perfect nightlife combination: chic decor, a multipage cocktail list, and a prime locale in the Pearl District, a former warehouse area turned shopping, dining, living zone. Bartenders pour notable martinis, including one called Shameless (orange vodka, dark chocolate liqueur, Grand Marnier) best sipped by the fireplace or at the glass bar. Local artwork showcased on the walls changes the first Thursday of the month. 226 N.W. 12th Ave.; 503-224-4909; www.vaultmartini.com.

Jupiter Hotel In the up-and-coming Lower Burnside neighborhood, this former motel has been converted into a retro-look boutique hotel with platform beds and, in some rooms, shaggy green throw pillows. Jupiter is popular with visiting bands, some of which play at the adjacent Doug Fir restaurant/bar. Kathi O'Neil, publisher of *PortlandPicks.com*, recommends nabbing a spot near the Doug Fir fireplace: "It's like relaxing at a ski lodge but without the two-hour drive and cumbersome gear." Rooms from \$89. 800 E. Burnside St.; 877-800-0004; www.jupiterhotel.com.

The Elizabeth Leach Gallery Portland's largest collection of contemporary fine art recently moved to a 4,000-or-so-square-foot space in the Pearl District. The gallery showcases sculpture, paintings, prints, photos, drawings, and mixed-media works by some 40 American artists. 417 N.W. 9th St.; 503-224-0521; www.elizabethleach.com.

Bold-Sky Café & Studios Locals pack this new restaurant for Northwest seasonal fare. Menu favorite? In winter it's pleasantly spicy guajillo-chili-brined pork chop served with mashed sweet potatoes and bacon-sauteed greens. Ask for a seat in front of the fireplace—or at the copper-top open-kitchen bar. In good weather, head outside to the patio. Cinnamon, strawberry, and mascarpone French toast—as well as other brunch options—are served 10-3 on weekends. 3943 N. Mississippi Ave.; 503-287-0154; www.bold-sky.com.

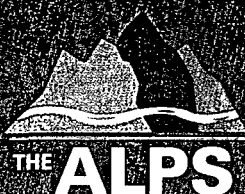


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